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RESCUE IN NANDYAL

Villagers bring tiger cubs to safety

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ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

The grave threat to political stability

The Shiv Sena case in Maharashtra raises constitutional questions

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MGNREGS IN JEOPARDY

Uncertainty continues over funds for West Bengal

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BJP picks Manik Saha again in Tripura

The swearing-in will be held tomorrow; he meets the Governor to stake his claim to form a new government after being elected leader of the BJP Legislature Party unanimously

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

Tripura Governor Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya on Monday invited BJP leader and Chief Minister Manik Saha to form a new government in the State. Dr. Saha will be sworn in on Wednesday as the 12th Chief Minister of the State since its formation in 1972. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top BJP leaders will attend the function.

In the Assembly election, the BJP won 32 of the 60 seats, while its ally, Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), won one seat. Earlier in the day, Mr. Saha was elected leader of the BJP Legislature Party. Union Minister of State for Social Justice Pratima Bhowmik, who won the Dhanpur seat in the Assembly election, proposed his name, party sources said. She was in contention for the top post.

A BJP spokesperson told presspersons that Dr. Saha's selection was unanimous. Shukla Charan Noatia of the IPFT also backed the selection of Dr. Saha, who won the Town Bardowali seat by 1,257 votes. He was made Chief Minister on May 15, 2022 after Biplab Kumar Deb stepped down in a surprise move.

Party sources said the decision to reappoint Dr. Saha was taken at a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended the meeting. Sources said Mr. Sarma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the composition of Cabinet and its leader.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Back in the saddle: Tripura BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee presents a bouquet to Manik Saha. Mahesh Sharma and Sambit Patra are also seen. PTI

CPI(M) calls for protests amid fresh violence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/ AGARTALA

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) announced a nationwide protest against the BJP over alleged post-poll violence against its cadres in Tripura. The party accused the BJP of "mounting an orgy of violence" even as fresh attacks were reported in the State on Monday.

A police officer said 16 people were injured and properties were set on fire.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Conrad, Rio to take charge in Meghalaya and Nagaland today

Rahul Karmarkar
GUWAHATI

The United Democratic Party (UDP), part of every alliance government in Meghalaya since 2010 except for a five-year phase from 2013, has been allotted two berths in the Cabinet of the new five-party government. National People's Party (NPP) leader Conrad K. Sangma will assume charge as the Chief Minister on Tuesday.

The alliance has a total of 45 MLAs, including two Independents. The NPP has 26 MLAs, followed by the UDP with 11, and the BJP, the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP) and the People's Democratic Front (PDF) with two each.

In Nagaland, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader Neiphiu Rio will take over as the Chief Minister on Tuesday. The State is likely to have an Opposition-less government with almost all parties extending unconditional support to the alliance of the NDPP and the BJP. The outgoing government had no Opposition after the Naga People's Front (NPF) joined the NDPP alliance in 2021.

In Meghalaya, after the new MLAs assumed office, Mr. Sangma said the NPP would keep eight Cabinet berths.

Conrad K. Sangma

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

H3N2 virus: 'No cause for panic, do not pop antibiotics without advice'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is no need for panic on H3N2 virus infections in Karnataka and guidelines will be soon issued on the precautions to be taken, said Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar on Monday.

Later in the day, the Health and Family Welfare Department issued guidelines and instructed all health facilities to ensure regular ILI/SARI surveillance with appropriate sample collection for diagnosis and reporting of the same on IDSP-IHIP portal.

It also directed health authorities to ensure sufficient stock of all the required doses of medicine and ensure that all healthcare workers working in high risk areas like ICU and isolation wards are vaccinated with the flu vaccine.

In view of the sudden spike in H3N2 virus infections, the Minister held a meeting with the technical advisory committee and senior officials on Monday.

Addressing a press conference on what transpired in the meeting, he said, "Influenza vaccination is given every year and all healthcare workers are instructed to get it." The vaccine was given till 2019 and was discontinued later owing to COVID-19. Now it would resumed in all 31 districts, he said.

The Central government in its guidelines has set a target of 25 tests per week and, "We are screening 25 cases of SARI and ILI in Victoria and Vani Vilas Hospitals to keep track of the variants," he said. The infection can be seen in children under 15 years, and those over 65 years. Pregnant women are also more likely to get infected.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, chairing a meeting with the technical advisory committee and senior officials, in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CBI questions Rabri Devi in land-for-job scam

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A team of officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday questioned for nearly four hours former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, wife of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, in connection with the land-for-job scam in the Railways.

The CBI later clarified that no search or raid was conducted. After it had issued notice to Ms. Devi, she requested the agency to meet her at her official residence here on March 6. The inquiry is open and may lead to "further investigation", CBI officials said.

"Every month or two, these investigating agencies keep coming to our residence, but we are not bothered as we have not done anything wrong," her son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Tejashwi Yadav, told presspersons.

The questioning comes a day after leaders of eight parties, including the RJD, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the alleged misuse of investigation agencies against party leaders.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8
CONGRESS SLAMS CENTRE » PAGE 9

In strength: Security personnel outside the residence of RJD leader Rabri Devi during a visit of CBI officials in Patna on Monday. PTI

NEARBY

Bribery case: BJP struggles to contain damage

BENGALURU
The episode of BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa finding himself in the Lokayukta net on corruption changes has embarrassed the BJP and given a handle to Opposition to put the focus back again on corruption, ahead of elections.

» Page 4

Advertisement

TECNO PHANTOM X2 Pro
WITH
WORLD'S 1ST RETRACTABLE CAMERA
in the Premium Segment and Here What Makes It a Winner

Why Phantom X2 pro is a superstar?

If you are amongst those users yearning for DSLR-like professional bokeh photos without spending a dime on a camera separately, you are definitely in for a surprise if you buy the Phantom X 2 Pro. The phone comes with a triple rear camera set-up that includes a 50 MP primary sensor with 7P lens, 50 MP retractable portrait lens, and a 13 MP ultrawide-angle sensor. Its marquee camera features, headlined by a **World's First Retractable lens is an innovative technology** that serves the purpose of providing a gorgeous, purely optical bokeh. Based on 2.5X optical zoom, a 65mm focal length, and f/1.49 ultra large aperture, Phantom X2 pro makes subjects look stunning with shallow yet natural depth-of-field. It is also equipped with 32 MP Selfie shooter with HDR support.

Irresistible Design and eco-friendly aspect

The Phantom X2 Pro is a truly premium device with its ergonomic and eye-catching unibody curved symmetric design complemented by a high-res 120Hz AMOLED screen. The 71-degree ergonomic holding grip allows the user to have a smoother grip for longer durations. The camera system has a 3.5D Moon Crater Inspired Design with no sharp edges around the camera and a slimmer camera module that makes it look sleek. The Mars Orange variant of the PHANTOM X2 Pro is also eco-friendly as it has the Renewable Fiber Back Cover.

Set aside your lavptops; here comes a compact multitasking giant

The Phantom X2 Pro 5G uses the thinnest 4nm technology with MediaTek Dimensity 9000 for next-gen multi-tasking. To interact with all this high-power hardware and industry-first camera system, you get a sprawling 6.8-inch curved AMOLED display with Full HD+ resolution. It is also resistant to shatters and scratches, thanks to the Corning Gorilla Glass Victus protection. Another key differentiator of the phone lies in its RAM capacity, Phantom X2 Pro becomes the only flagship phone that offers 17GB RAM with Memory Fusion that help deliver unmatched performance round the clock.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

1 In million tonnes, the additional amount of sugar that can be exported if the domestic output reaches an estimated 33.6 million tonnes this year, according to a senior food Ministry official. The food Ministry allowed six million tonnes of sugar exports for the current 2022-23 marketing year. India, the world's second-largest sugar producer exported a record 11 million tonnes of sugar in the previous year. PTI

10-15 In percentage, the expected growth in India's auto components industry in FY24, driven by both domestic and export market demand despite fears of a recession in major markets of the U.S. and Europe, according to Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA). The industry clocked a turnover of $56.5 billion in FY22 with a growth of 23% over the previous year. PTI

2,500 In ₹, the monthly allowance to unemployed youth announced in the Chhattisgarh Budget. Bhupesh Baghel, the Chief Minister and Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh presented the annual budget of ₹1,21,500 crore for the financial year 2023-24. He also announced a hike in monthly honorariums of Anganwadi workers, home guards, village kotwars and others. PTI

22 The number of Pakistani security personnel harmed in a suicide attack on a vehicle in Balochistan province, Pakistan. At least nine of them were killed and 13 others were injured. The blast occurred near the Kambri bridge on the Quetta-Sibi highway. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kachhi, Mehmood Notezai, said that the preliminary evidence suggests it was a suicide attack. PTI

36.6 In percentage, of the 2,744 sanctioned posts in 16 government engineering colleges are vacant in Gujarat as of December 31, 2022 as well as 28.5% of 3,463 sanctioned Class I-III posts in government polytechnic colleges, the State Higher and Technical Education Minister Rushikesh Patel informed the Assembly. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Multilateral reforms as a priority in the G-20

Why should multilateralism be given importance in today's global order? How can the G-20 help in multilateral reform? Can multiple minilateral groupings become an alternative mode of multilateral cooperation? Why would global powers be averse to the idea of reform in multilateral institutions?

EXPLAINER

Rajeesh Kumar

The story so far:

While assuming the G-20 presidency in December 2022, India stated that its agenda would be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive. New Delhi also said that its primary objectives are to build global consensus over critical development and security issues and deliver global goods. This resulted in placing multilateral reform as one of the top presidential priorities for India. Accordingly, the G-20 idea bank, Think 20, also placed multilateral reforms as one of its priorities. The T20 Task Force on 'Towards Reformed Multilateralism' (TF7) aims to construct a roadmap for 'Multilateralism 2.0'.

Towards change: A meeting on the Strengthening of Multilateral Development Banks to address shared challenges of the 21st century on January 30, 2023. ANI

Why is multilateralism important?

Multilateral cooperation today, is confronting multiple crises. First, due to persistent deadlocks, multilateralism has lost the majority's trust. Second, multilateralism is facing a utility crisis, where powerful member-states think it is no longer useful for them. Moreover, increasing great-power tensions, de-globalisation, populist nationalism, the pandemic, and climate emergencies added to the hardships. This impasse led states to seek other arenas, including bilateral, plurilateral and minilateral groupings, which subsequently contributed to further polarisation of global politics. However, cooperation and multilateral reform is the need of the hour. Most of the challenges nations face today are global in nature and require global solutions. Pressing global issues such as conflicts, climate change, migration, macroeconomic instability, and cybersecurity can indeed only be solved collectively. Furthermore, disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic have reversed the social and economic progress that the global society made in the past couple of decades.

Why is reform difficult?

Reforming multilateralism is a difficult task for various reasons. First, multilateralism is deeply entrenched in global power politics. As a result, any action in reforming multilateral institutions and frameworks automatically transforms into a move that seeks changes in the current distribution of power. Modifications in the distribution of power in the global order are neither easy nor normal. Moreover, it may have adverse implications if not done cautiously.

Second, the status quo powers see multilateral reforms as a zero-sum game. For instance, in the context of the Bretton Woods system, the U.S. and Europe believed reform would reduce their influence and dominance. This makes decisions about reform in these institutions, by consensus or voting, hard. Third, multilateralism appears at odds with the realities of the emerging multiplex global order. The emerging order seems more multipolar and multi-centred. Such a situation facilitates the formation of new clubs, concerts and coalitions of the like-minded, which makes the reform of older institutions and frameworks more challenging.

What can G-20 and India do?

To fix the malaise within multilateralism, G-20 needs to devise multiple solutions. Currently, the multilateralism reform narrative lives only in elite circles and some national capitals, particularly the emerging powers. Therefore, G-20 should first focus on setting proper narratives of multilateral reform. G-20 may constitute an engagement group dedicated to bring the narrative to the forefront of global discourse. India should also urge the upcoming chairs of the grouping, Brazil and South Africa, to place multilateral reforms as their presidential priorities. Since both have global high-table ambitions, it would be an easier task for India.

Many of today's problems need global solutions and global cooperation. However, we should also acknowledge the limitations of multilateral cooperation. Competing interests and the dominance of powerful states are there to stay in multilateral platforms. Therefore, while supporting multilateral cooperation, G-20 should continue encouraging minilateral groupings as a new form of multilateralism and try to transform them into multi-stakeholder partnerships. Creating networks of issue-based minilaterals, particularly in areas related to the governance of the global commons will be helpful in preventing competitive coalitions where other actors play the same game to their advantage, leading to a more fragmented world order. Multilateral reforms also require mobilising the political will, subsequently giving concessions and conciliations. However, most reform bids have yet to take this issue seriously.

To overcome the trust, legitimacy and utility crises of multilateralism, the world requires a model, and the G-20 can be one. However, to fit the purpose, the group needs to be more inclusive without sacrificing efficiency. For example, including the African Union as a permanent member and the UN Secretary-General and General Assembly President as permanent invitees would be helpful to enhance its legitimacy.

Similarly, to address the crisis of trust and utility, G-20 should put all its efforts into solving one or two pressing global issues and showcase it as the model of new multilateralism. Food, fuel and fertilizer security can be one such issue. On the one hand, it falls under the 'low politics' of world politics, so cooperation is more achievable. On the other, it is a global cause of concern, since it can trigger stagflation and recession across the globe. More significantly, this issue spreads across the overall priorities of India within and beyond the G-20.

Rajeesh Kumar is an Associate Fellow at MP-IDSA and co-chair of the T20 India Task Force on Towards Reformed Multilateralism

THE GIST

- The T20 Task Force on 'Towards Reformed Multilateralism' (TF7) aims to construct a roadmap for 'Multilateralism 2.0' at the G-20.
- Most of the challenges nations face today are global in nature and require global solutions. Pressing global issues such as conflicts, climate change, migration, macroeconomic instability, and cybersecurity can indeed only be solved collectively.
- To fix the malaise within multilateralism, G-20 needs to devise multiple solutions. Currently, the multilateralism reform narrative lives only in elite circles and some national capitals, particularly the emerging powers. Therefore, the G-20 should first focus on setting proper narratives of multilateral reform.

Is the internet as we know it going to change?

Why is the U.S. Supreme Court interpreting Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act of 1996? What are tech companies and digital rights activists saying?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has begun hearing two pivotal lawsuits that will for the first time ask it to interpret Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act of 1996, the law that has shielded tech companies from liabilities over decades. The lawsuits pose a long-standing question – should digital companies be held liable for the content that users post on their platforms?

What are the two lawsuits?

Both lawsuits have been brought by families of those killed in Islamic State (ISIS) terror attacks. The first lawsuit, *Gonzalez versus Google*, has been filed by the family of Nohemi Gonzalez, a 23-year-old American killed while studying in Paris, in the ISIS terror attacks of 2015 that killed 129 people. The family is suing YouTube-parent Google for "affirmatively recommending ISIS videos to users" through its recommendations algorithm. The Court filings say that the video-sharing platform YouTube "aided and abetted" the Islamic State in carrying out acts actionable under U.S. anti-terrorism law.

The second case, *Twitter, Inc versus Taamneh*, pertains to a lawsuit filed by the family of a Jordanian citizen killed in an ISIS attack on a nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017. The lawsuit relies on the Antiterrorism Act, which allows U.S. nationals to sue anyone who "aids and abets" international terrorism "by knowingly providing substantial assistance." The family argues that despite knowing that their platforms played an important role in ISIS's terrorism efforts, Twitter and other tech companies failed to take action to keep ISIS content off those platforms. It also says that the platforms assisted the growth of ISIS by recommending extremist content through their algorithms.

What is Section 230?

If a person posts on Facebook that a certain individual is a fraud, according to Section 230 of the U.S Communications Decency Act, the individual cannot sue the platform, but only the person who posted it. It is essentially a "safe harbour" or "liability shield" for social media platforms or any website on the internet that hosts user-generated content, such as Reddit, Wikipedia, or Yelp.

"No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider"– these words, enshrined in Section 230, have been described by a recent book and by Lisa Blatt, Google's lawyer in the Gonzalez case, as the "26 words that created the internet". Another thing Section 230 does is allow interactive computer service providers to engage in content moderation, removing posts that violate their guidelines or are obscene. According to the statute, these platforms can remove content posted on them as long as it is done in "good faith".

What are tech companies saying?

In January this year, a group of tech companies, websites, academics, users of the internet, and rights groups filed amicus curiae briefs in the Supreme Court, urging it to not change Section 230, outlining the sweeping impact such a move could have on the Internet.

Twitter argued that Section 230 allows facilitated platforms to moderate huge volumes of content and present the "most relevant" information to users. It added that the company has frequently relied on the statute to protect it from "myriad lawsuits'. Digital rights and free speech activist Evan Greer also pointed out that holding platforms liable for what their recommendation algorithms present could lead to the suppression of legitimate third-party information of political or social importance, such as those created by minority rights groups.

THE GIST

- The SCOTUS has begun hearing two pivotal lawsuits that will for the first time ask it to interpret Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act of 1996, the law that has shielded tech companies from liabilities over decades.
- Section 230 is essentially a "safe harbour" or "liability shield" for social media platforms or any website on the internet that hosts user-generated content.
- A group of tech companies, websites, academics, users of the internet, and rights groups filed amicus curiae briefs in the Supreme Court, urging it to not change Section 230.

Board exams: Minister favours leniency for students of unauthorised private schools

Govt.'s decision to hold such exams for Classes 5 and 8 at the State level has put illegal schools under pressure, forcing them to teach State board syllabus. Parents have filed a complaint against one school

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

B.C. Nagesh.

Despite releasing a list of unauthorised private schools which are running in the name of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) by taking State Board affiliation, Karnataka government is planning to give relaxation from the board exams for classes 5 and 8 for such schools.

The board exam for classes 5 and 8 will be held from March 13 to 18 across the State. B.C. Nagesh, Minister of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has sent a note to the Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy in this regard. In his note, the Minister said, "Take necessary action to give relaxation from the board examination for classes 5 and 8 which will be conducted by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board for the private schools which have got No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the State government to teach CBSE or ICSE curriculum."

In recent months, some private schools had conducted a press conference and made corruption charges against the officers of DSEL. Instead of conducting inquiry, the department set up three-member committees headed by BEOs to private schools for verification.

The committees identified 1,300 illegal private schools across the State. Among these, 95 were running in the name of CBSE and ICSE by taking State board affiliation.

The government's decision to hold board exams for Classes 5 and 8 at the State-level put illegal schools under pressure, forcing them to teach State board syllabus. Parents of children of one such school protested and filed a police complaint against the school.

The Minister had said then, "Our government has considered the fraudulent schools issue seriously and will punish them according to the law. Running a CBSE board school with State affiliation is intolerable. To avoid all these irregularities, we are conducting board examination for the students of classes 5 and 8 at the State-level from this academic year. All the State board affiliated schools must compulsorily follow this." Mr. Nagesh had also said that they were planning to launch a separate portal and disclose names of all the unauthorised and fraudulent schools along with their addresses. Instead of doing all these, the Minister sent a note to the Department Principal Secretary to give relaxation from the board examination for these schools.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shashikumar D., General Secretary for Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) said, "I think the Minister has succumbed to pressure. We expected that the government will take stringent action against the fraudulent schools. In the name of children, the department is giving room for more corruption."

The minister was unavailable for comments.

HC to consider petitions against change in exam pattern for Classes 5 and 8

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A division bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Monday, requested a single judge to decide expeditiously the petitions questioning the decision of the State government in changing the method of assessment of students of classes 5 and 8 for the academic year 2022-23.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the order while disposing of appeals filed by the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools and the Registered Unaided Private Schools' Management Association Karnataka. The petitioners had questioned the February 23 order passed by the single judge, who had refused to grant interim order against government's December 12, 2022 circular on changing method of academic assessment of students of classes 5 and 8 for the academic year 2022-23.

The Division Bench said that the petitions need early hearing as the examinations for classes 5 and 8 are scheduled to held from March 13.

The petitioners had questioned the correctness of changing the assessment method by conducting State-level 'board exams' instead of school-level assessment while contending that such a change at the end of the academic year adversely impact the students and the teachers.

However, the single judge had declined to pass interim order while observing that the December 12, 2022 circular does not does not contemplate conducting board exams.

The single judge had also noted that the circular clearly stated that there is no question of detaining or holding back of any student in the same class even if any student fails in the exams and hence new method of assessment does not violate provisions of the RTE Act warranting immediate interference of the court by way of interim order.

Businessman murdered by partner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chandra Layout police's investigations into the murder of 43-year-old businessman at his house revealed that it was his 26-year-old partner who killed him to end the relationship as he wanted to get married.

The deceased Liyakath Ali Khan, owner of an advertisement and printing agency, was found hacked to death in his house at Nayandahalli around 2 a.m. on February 28. The accused, Ilyas Khan, 26, returned home and allegedly tried to end his own life.

Investigations revealed that Liyakath and Ilyas were in a relationship for the past two years. The deceased was married and had two children. Liyakath had also got married a second time but wanted to continue his relationship with Ilyas, whose parents were on the hunt for a bride for him. But, Liyakath had forced him to continue relationship, the police said. On the fateful day, Ilyas told Liyakath that he wanted to end the relationship. Liyakath did not listen to him. Enraged, Ilyas stabbed him repeatedly with a pair of scissors before hammering him to death and escaped.

Auto drivers arrested for robbing workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Baiyappanahalli Railway Police arrested two autorickshaw drivers for allegedly robbing a group of four labourers from Assam on the pretext of dropping them to their destination from the railway station.

The victim, Minu Baraha, along with three of his associates from Assam, landed on Friday at Baiyappanahalli station and boarded the autorickshaw to go to Sumanahalli, where they were working in an ice factory.

The accused autorickshaw driver, identified as Robin Richard asked them to pay ₹600 but on the way started demanding that each one pay him ₹600.

When Minu and his friends objected, he called his associate Yuvaraj Murugesh and the duo took the four to an isolated place and robbed ₹500 at knife point and also forced them to transfer ₹3,300 to their account online. The accused later escaped and called their owner M. Gunushekhar, who filed a complaint with the police on their behalf.

Based on the complain filed by the owner, the police tracked down the duo within 24 hours and recovered the knife and ₹1,157 cash from their account.

Three held for killing physiotherapist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladavenahalli police on Monday cracked a month old murder case of a 32-year-old physiotherapist who was hacked to death by his drinking partners who even set his body on fire in an isolated place on February 7.

The deceased Sridhar, and the accused Viranjaneyalu, Govardhana and Buddappa, all wall painters by profession, were from the same area and used to visit a local bar frequently. They become close over time and started drinking together. In one of the drinking sessions, Sridhar had threatened to kill the accused in an inebriated state, said the police. The accused since then decided to eliminate him and as per the plan, invited him for a drinking party and took him to an isolated place in a grove in Lakshmipura. After a couple of drinks, the trio attacked Sridhar with lethal weapons, killing him on the spot. They later poured petrol on him and set fire to the body before returning home, the police added.

The murder came to light the next day when the land owner noticed the charred body and informed the police.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has negotiated to purchase Immovable Property bearing Vacant Plot No.164, **e-Khata No.150200201100320870 at `FERNS ASPEN HEIGHTS'**, formed in Converted Survey No.32, situated at **Boilahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka, Bangalore North Taluk,** site measuring 3425 Square Feet, from **Mr. Vediyera Chandroth Vinod, S/o. Mr. M.K.M. Kutty.**

If any person/s are having any objections or claims in respect of the above sale the same be lodged with documentary proof within **7 days** from today failing which , our client will get the Sale Deed registered and it shall be deemed there are no claims of any nature whatsoever.

K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES, Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road, Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414.
E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client has negotiated for purchase of the immovable Properties described in the schedule hereunder from its owners:

1. **SRI. KALIKIRI SUBRAMANYAM,** S/o. Sri. Muniyappa Aged about 76 years, **Aadhaar No. 3523 3562 9654**
2. **SMT. KALIKIRI VARALAKSHMI,** W/o. Sri. Kalikiri Subramanyam, Aged about 66 years, **Aadhaar No. 2716 7871 3534**
3. **SMT. K. SUNITH,** D/o. Sri. Kalikiri Subramanyam, Aged about 42 years, **Aadhaar No. 9989 7086 2421**
4. **SMT. K. SARITHA** D/o. Sri. Kalikiri Subramanyam, Aged about 37 years, **Aadhaar No. 5072 8487 9983**

All are residing at No.15, 2nd Cross, Udayanagara, Uttarahalli Main Road, Subramanyapura Post, BANGALORE - 560 062.

Whereas the owners claim that they are the absolute owners thereof

It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/s, agent/s, Bank/s Financial Institution/s, etc, having any manner of claims, charge, mortgage, right, title and Interest, sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, license, easement or otherwise of whatsoever nature, howsoever etc., in respect of the schedule property Item No.1 and 2 are hereby informed to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents as proof of evidence, within a period of 14 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which the claim/s or objections if any shall be deemed to have been waived and/discharged forever and my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1 : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY BEARING SY.NO.135/1, SITUATED AT KANIKALLU VILLAGE, JADIGENAHALLI HOBLI, HOSKOTE TALUK, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT.
MEASURING 3 ACRES AND BOUNDED ON THE
EAST BY : PROPERTY BEARING SY.NO.135/2,
WEST BY : PROPERTY BEARING SY.NO.136
NORTH BY : RAILWAY ROAD AND
SOUTH BY : PROPERTY BELONGING TO MR.MUNI REDDY

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.2 : IN RESPECT OF AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY BEARING SY.NO.136, SITUATED AT KANIKALLU VILLAGE, JADIGENAHALLI HOBLI, HOSKOTE TALUK, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT MEASURING 3 ACRES 29 GUNTAS WHICH IS INCLUSIVE OF ONE GUNTA KHARAB LAND AND BOUNDED ON THE
EAST BY : PROPERTY BEARING SY.NO.135/1,
WEST BY : KACHARAKANAHALLI VILLAGE BOUNDARY
NORTH BY : RAILWAY LINE AND
SOUTH BY : DODDADUNNASNDRA VILLAGE BOUNDARY

G. VIJAYAKUMAR, Advocate
No.64, 4th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, BANGALORE - 560 038.
Mobile : 98840 67439 / Phone 25200773

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Gowribidanuru, Chikkaballapura District
Ph: 08155286994, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gouribidanur@Yahoo.co.in
No.: CMCG/TS/CR/97/2022-23 Date: 27.02.2023

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Gowribidanuru, Chikkaballapura District, invites Itemwar Tenders through e-procurement, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 in Tender Forms from eligible contractors for works under City Municipal Council Fund for the year 2022-23 and IDSMT Grant.

Sl. No.	Details of the work	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Work of constructing Community Compositing Unit in the limits of City Municipal Council, Gowribidanuru. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT147738	2.00	5000/-
2	Construction of Drain in front of the Residence of Balajigara Gangamma in Official Layout of Hirebidanuru in Ward No. 29. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT147733	2.35	5875/-
3	Work of constructing Pipe Line Drain in Masidi Galli of Ward No. 10. DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT147731	4.10	10250/-
4	Work of installimg New Drop Polysheets on top of Commercial Complex under IDSMT Scheme of City Municipal Council, Gowribidanuru. DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT148086	35.81	89525/-
5	Providing Breakfast for Pourakarmikas working in City Municipal Council, Gowribidanuru CMC/GBD/HEALTH SECTION/CR/06/2021-22	8.945	22383/-

Class of Contractors: Eligible Contractors. (1) Last date for submission of Tenders in e-procurement portal: **13.03.2023, 5.00 PM,** Date of opening the Bid: **14.03.2023 at 5.30 PM. (2)** The Tender works published above are subject to Terms and Conditions as per Standard Service Documents. **(3)** City Municipal Council reserves the right to accept or reject the Tenders. **(4)** Further information can be obtained from Municipal Commissioner/ technical section of City Municipal Council during office hours.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Gowribidanuru
Sd/- President, CMC, Gowribidanuru
DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O. No.556/MCA/2022-23

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Important Information: The admission process contained in the Bulletins shall be subject to any order that maybe passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court / High Court / any other statutory enactments that maybe passed by the Central or State Government. ***REGISTRAR***

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Civil and a criminal court proceeding will be taken up against any person who holds out promises and also uses the institutions intellectual properties.
PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT ADMIT STUDENTS THROUGH AGENTS OR AGENCIES.
CMC VELLORE ADMINISTRATION

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ALOKNATH S/O NAGENDRA, R/o Near Mehaboob Subhani Darga, Indira Nagar Maddi No 2, Shahabad, Gulbarga, Karnataka–585229 Have changed my Religion from HINDUISM to ISLAM RELIGION W.E.F–6/1/2023 also changed my name to MOHAMMED SHOAIB

I, RAJIB Biswal, S/o Banshidhar Biswal, R/a Dandanabada, Sarisha, Amarda, Panchurukhi, Amarda Road, Basta, Baleswar, Odisha-756030 have changed my name to Sanjib Kumar Biswal vide affidavit dt: 27.02.2023 sworn before Notary Rajanna.S.M, B'lore

I, BHAVARLAL, R/a No.1007/10, 2nd Main, Maruthi Circle, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-560019 have changed my name to Bhawarlal Choudhry vide affidavit dt: 04.03.2023 sworn before Notary Smt A.Manjula, B'lore

I, HITESH Jain, R/a Flat-H1504, ETA Gardens, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 have changed my Minor Son's name from Kumar Pal to Kumar Pal Jain vide afffidavit dt: 04.03.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore.

I, RAKESH S Jain, R/a No. 29/1, Pancharatna apts, Govindappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar S Jain vide affidavit dt: 06.03.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore

I, Vuchala Raghu Kumar S/O, Vuchholla Ramulu R/o Unit No.202, 2nd Floor, Sri Yellamma Devi Krupa, Mvj College Road, Marathalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name to Vuchholla Raghu Kumar for all purposes

I, SERVICE No.15328480W Rank: Hav, Name: K Amaranadaha Reddy is legal father of K Aditya Sainath Reddy, R/o Kotha Palem, Mulaganivari Palem, Chinnaganjam, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh-523135 today in Bengaluru have changed my minor son's name from K Aditya Sainath Reddy to Kota Aditya Sainath Reddy vide affidavit dated 04-03-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, K SANTHI legally spouse of Service No.15328480W Rank: Hav, Name: K Amaranadaha Reddy, R/o Kotha Palem, Mulaganivari Palem, Chinnaganjam, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh-523135, have changed my name from K Santhi to Kota Santhi vide affidavit dated 04-03-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25407/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. **...Plaintiff**
And
Ms. Swetha Vokuda
...Defendant

SUMMONS

Ms. Swetha Vokuda
D/o. Shivappa, Aged about 49, Plot No. 24, Gauri Nilaya, Second Floor, Kothnur, Dinne Main Road, 7th Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore- 560078.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,61,793.35/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three and Paise Thirty Five Only),** apart from future interest of **8.90% p.a.,** in **O.S.No. 25407/2022** and same is pending adjudication in CCH-20, Before Addl. City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 18th Day of 04, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 28th Day of February, 2023.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No.9, Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560.005

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM NO. RSC - 4
[Pursuant to Rule 3(3)]
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 66 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND IN THE MATTER OF TOYOTA TSUSHO INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED CP No. 10 / BB/ 2023
TOYOTA TSUSHO INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U27105KA1999PTC025012
Registered Officeat Plot No. 33 & 34, Bidadi Industrial Area,Ramanagara Taluk & District, Ramanagara, Karnataka - 562109**...PETITIONER COMPANY**

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that an application with CP No 10/BB/2023 **('Company Petition')** was presented before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench at Bengaluru **('Hon'bleTribunal')**, on February 6, 2023 for confirming the reduction of share capital of the above Petitioner Company from INR 610,84,30,560 (Indian Rupees Six Hundred-Ten Crores Eighty-Four Lakhs Thirty Thousands Five Hundred and Sixty Only) consisting of 61,08,43,056 (Sixty-One Crores Eight Lakhs Forty-Three Thousand and Fifty-Six) Equity Shares of INR 10 (Indian Rupees Ten) each fully paid-up to INR 463,89,75,480 (Indian Rupees Four Hundred and Sixty-Three Crores Eighty-Nine Lakhs Seventy-Five Thousands Four Hundred and Eighty Only) consisting of 46,38,97,548 (Forty-Six Crores Thirty-Eight Lakhs Ninety-Seven Thousands Five Hundred and Forty-Eight) Equity Shares of INR 10 (Indian Rupees Ten) each fully paid-up, by cancelling and extinguishing 14,69,45,508 (Fourteen Crores Sixty-Nine Lakhs Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred and Eight) Equity Shares of INR 10 (Indian Rupees Ten) each to set-off the accumulated losses (i.e., debit balance of Retained Earnings) of the Company to the extent of INR 146,94,55,080 (Indian Rupees One Hundred and Forty Six Crores Ninety-Four Lakhs Fifty-Five Thousands Eighty Only) as per the audited financials of the Company as on March 31, 2022 reflected under 'Reserves and Surplus - Retained Earnings' as a part of the 'Other Equity', as per Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the National Company Law Tribunal (Procedure for Reduction of Share Capital of Company) Rules, 2016 ('NCLT RSC Procedure Rules') and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the National Company Law Tribunal Rules, 2016 ('NCLT Rules') and Article 10 of the Articles of Association of the Company.

The Company has unsecured creditors and Noticesare issued to the Unsecured Creditors of the Company in this regard. The list of Unsecured Creditors prepared as on December 10, 2022by the Company is available at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection on all working days during 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. up to three months of date of publication of this notice. If any creditor of the Company has any objection to the Company Petition or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorized Representative, if any, to the undersigned at SPJ Legal, Unit No 306, 3rd Floor, #30, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560 001within three months of the date of this Notice. In case no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above Company Petitionto reduce the Share Capital of the Company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for April 27, 2023on which the Hon'bleTribunal shall hear the Company Petition. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing, he should make a request along with his objections, if any. Dated this 7th day of March 2023 at Bengaluru.

Sd/-
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal
Unit no 306, 3rdFloor, #30, Prestige Meridian II, MG Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph: 09845209798,Email: saji@spjlegal.com

ABSTRACT

The world's largest salt flat, Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia. ISTOCKPHOTO

Why are salt flats around the world covered in a similar pattern of ridges?

These captivating patterns have been photographed as far apart as Bolivia, Chile, China, India, Iran, Tunisia, and the U.S. In a new study, researchers from Austria, Germany, and the U.K. may have finally found an explanation as to why these patterns form the way they do

Vasudevan Mukunth

Jana Lasser et al, 'Salt Polygons and Porous Media Convection', Phys. Rev. X 13, 011025, February 24, 2023

In salt flats across the world, the salt on the surface forms ridges that join together in a patchwork of pentagons and hexagons. These captivating patterns have been photographed as far apart as Bolivia, Chile, China, India (in the Rann of Kutch), Iran, Tunisia, and the U.S. These shapes are also invariably a metre or two across. That the salt always crenellates in these shapes and at these sizes, irrespective of the local environmental conditions, the mineral chemistry, the soil type, and other factors has puzzled researchers.

In a new study, researchers from Austria, Germany, and the U.K. may finally have an explanation. Using a combination of ground sampling and computer models, they have pointed their fingers at the way salt flows up and down in the soil below this formation. It is important to know the underlying mechanism because salt flats have significant effects on both humans and the climate.

What are salt flats?

A salt flat is a natural landscape in which a large area of flat land is covered by salt. Perhaps the world's most well-known salt flat is the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia. It is the largest in the world of its kind, and also contains more than half of the planet's lithium reserves.

A salt flat forms from a natural water body whose recharge rate is lower than the evaporation rate. Over time, all the water evaporates, leaving behind the dissolved minerals, usually salts. They reflect sunlight strongly and thus appear bright. The underlying soil is highly saline – even if the water table is shallow. The groundwater is too salty for humans to drink.

The study and its findings

The researchers began with the hypothesis that the salt on the surface is influenced by the salt flowing through the soil below.

Imagine the soil in a salt flat: there are some ridges on the top, followed by a layer of salt, then the topmost layer of the soil, and finally the rest of the soil. The groundwater in the soil is saline but the distribution of salt is not uniform. The salinity is highest near the top of the soil and decreases towards the bottom.

The researchers found that the salt penetrated deeper into the soil exactly below the ridges, and remained shallow under the flat areas. That is, if you removed the topmost layer and looked directly down at the soil, you would see that the salty groundwater is flowing deeper into the soil along vertical sheets, not throughout.

The surface of a salt flat has a layer of salt that has been deposited over time. So just under the surface, the groundwater is highly saline and denser than the groundwater further below. If any water reaches and rises above the surface, it evaporates to leave more salt behind. The researchers found that if the rate of evaporation is sufficiently high, that is if the rate of salt deposition on the surface is sufficiently high, the denser groundwater will sink down and the less-saline, less-dense groundwater will rise to the top. This body of descending and ascending water is called a convection cell.

Over time, there will be more saline groundwater rising up towards the surface through the convection cells than through other parts of the soil - simply because the less-dense water within the column is being displaced upwards. As a result, the salt this water carries will accumulate on the surface, forming the narrow ridges that make up the polygons.

The mathematical equations the researchers assembled for their computer model indicated that the "subsurface convection ... is relatively insensitive to salt chemistry", as they wrote in their paper, and that over time, the convection columns naturally grew to have a stable width of 1-2 m - just like the dimensions of the polygons on the surface.

Implications of the results

Since at least the early 1960s, scientists have offered different explanations for why the surface of dried salt lakes becomes covered with this pattern of polygonal shapes. Most of them have either considered above-the-surface dynamics or below-the-surface dynamics, whereas the new study shows that the polygons are formed when these two realms interact.

The theory and the results matter because when winds blow over salt flats, they carry some of the salt with them as particulate matter. When this air mass reaches the ocean, it deposits the salts there. Such sea salt can enter the atmosphere and go on to swirl at the centre of cyclones. When a salt-bearing air mass reaches an inhabited area, the particles cause significant respiratory problems. A 1996 study characterised the salt flat of what was once Owens Lake in California the "single greatest source of particulate matter in North America".

To mitigate the deleterious effects of salt flats, experts have recommended covering them in a shallow layer of water, so that the salt is deposited on the surface more uniformly and less salt is carried away by winds.

Salt suspensions are also an important group of aerosols (suspensions of fine solids in air) that reflect sunlight. We have also known for some time that saline lakes around the world are shrinking, including due to agriculture. So more accurate climate models will need to better understand the sources of salt, and the new findings describe one such source.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Last month, Antarctica sea ice reached the lowest levels ever. How much do you know about the world's coldest, windiest and driest continent?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
Which is the world's southernmost mammal?

QUESTION 2
This American politician, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives, was a champion of government funding for the exploration of Antarctica. The highest mountain in Antarctica was named after him in 2006. Who was he?

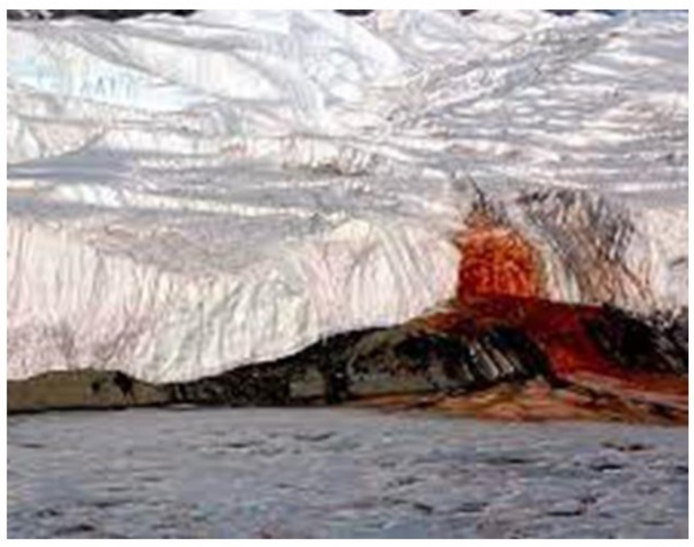
QUESTION 3
Who was the first human being to reach the south pole?

QUESTION 4
What are the indigenous people of Antarctica called?

QUESTION 5
Antarctica is the largest desert in the world. Which is the second largest?

QUESTION 6
Antarctica is often synonymous with penguins. Which is the most widely distributed penguin in the continent?

QUESTION 7
India has two research centres in Antarctica — Maitri and Bharati. The third is not active and is used as a supply base. What is it called?



Visual question:
What does the picture show?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This person holds the record for the most wickets by an Indian in one innings before Anil Kumble. **Ans: Jasu Patel**
2. The distinction Mark Boucher, Alec Stewart and Adam Gilchrist share as batsmen against spin bowling. **Ans: Boucher is the batter who got out most to Muralitharan, Stewart to Warne and Gilchrist to Kumble**
3. This Australian is widely held to have been the pioneer of the unorthodox carrom-ball delivery. **Ans: Jack Iverson**
4. This batsmen shares the record of having been dismissed the most by R. Ashwin with David Warner. **Ans: Ben Stokes**
5. This astounding cricketer made his debut as a left arm orthodox bowler and held a batting record for 36 years. **Ans: Garry Sobers held the record for the highest score in Test cricket.**
Visual: The significance of this wicket and the name of the bowler. **Ans: Englishman Tony Lock whose only wicket prevented Jim Laker from taking 20 wickets in the Test against Australia in Old Trafford**
Early Bird: Guruvayoorappan Krishnan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. R. Farook, Srinagar, wants to know whether there are other expressions like 'strong as an ox', 'busy as a bee'."

"There are many such expressions. The following are some: Meek as a lamb, cross as a bear, sly as a fox, fat as a pig, sick as a dog, quiet as a mouse, ugly as a toad, busy as a beaver, stubborn as a mule, poor as a church mouse, blind as a bat, happy as a lark, wise as an owl, proud as a peacock, slow as a turtle, brave as a lion..."

"Mr. Surjrt Misree, Oxford College, Gurgaon, wants to know whether 'none' is followed by a singular or plural verb."

"The verb can be either singular or plural.

None of the buses come this side.
None of the buses comes this side.
None of my friends have/has arrived.

With noncount nouns, that is with nouns that are not countable, the verb is singular.

None of the money has been spent.

'None' literally means 'no one'. It was originally used as a singular. But as early as 1580 it came to be used with the plural verb also. Now it can be used either with a singular or a plural verb. But there should be consistency within the sentence."

"Ms. S. Shaheena Parveen of Madanappalle and M. C. Sambandan, Subramania Nagar, Pudukottai, want to know the meaning of the sentence 'She opened the Pandora's box'."

"Pandora's box is a source of immense problems. It is a 'source of afflictions and complications'. According to Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman. Each god and goddess gave her some gift to make her a superb, perfect being. But Zeus was angry with mankind and gave her a box and asked her not to open it. When she opened it out of curiosity, all the troubles that could afflict mankind came out. The only thing that remained in the box was Hope.

With the formation of linguistic states, a Pandora's box was opened.

The government hesitates to say anything about its 'Reservation Policy' as it doesn't want to open a Pandora's box.

The first 'a' in 'Pandora' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man'. The 'o' is pronounced like the second sound in 'law'. The final 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The stress is on the second syllable."

"Mr. M. P. Srinivasan, NCBS Colony, Nanganallur, Madras wants to know which of the two is correct: daughter-in-laws, daughters-in-law."

" 'Daughters-in-law' is correct. Similar to this are: mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, sons-in-law, passers-by, lookers-on."

Published in The Hindu on March 3, 1987

Word of the day

Repletion:
the state of being satisfactorily full and unable to take on more; eating until excessively full (used as a noun)

Synonyms: satiation, satiety, surfeit

Usage: *Don't eat after you have reached repletion. You might vomit.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/repletionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /rɪˈpliːʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Keen on taking electronics project forward in Bengaluru, Foxconn tells Bommai

Our team will be in close contact with the government to ensure successful grounding of the project, says company chairman Young Liu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two days after issuing a 'clarification' that "no binding and definitive" agreements were made on investments in Karnataka, Taiwanese Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd. (Foxconn Technology Group) on Monday wrote to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai expressing keenness to take forward its proposed electronics production facility in Karnataka.

Foxconn Chairman Young Liu, in his letter to Mr. Bommai, promised to ensure successful grounding of the project in Bengaluru. The proposed Foxconn facility is expected to come on a 300-acre land close to the airport in the city, as per the Letter of Intent.

The proposed Foxconn facility is expected to come on a 300-acre land close to the airport in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"My team will be in close contact with your team to take this forward and ensure successful grounding of 'Project Elephant' in Bengaluru," Mr. Liu wrote to Mr Bommai. Sources said that 'Project Elephant' is a reference to the proposed 300-acre facility. "I am confident that this project will lay a strong foundation for our other multiple plans, spanning mechanical/precision machinery, electric vehicle, IC design & semiconductor segments to consider your State as a potential investment destination."

He had a word of praise for "infrastructure readiness, timelines, Government of Karnataka's support for skilling and talent acquisition and the availability of social infrastructure around the region where the plot is earmarked for the project."

Addressing the Chief Minister, he further wrote, "We hope that you and your team found our visit as successful and fruitful as we did."

Why the clarification

The clarification issued by the company earlier is said to have been triggered by corporate governance issues and public statements of politicians that overlooked official processes. Mr. Bommai and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekar on Friday had tweeted that Apple phones are to be built in Karnataka. This had not gone down well with the company, according to sources, since it was announced before all processes were in place and because the project is not of Apple alone.

Foxconn has written a similar letter of appreciation to Telaganga Chief Minister too, whom Mr. Liu also met during his visit to India.

'Foxconn to invest ₹5,000 crore in first phase'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taiwanese iPhone maker Foxconn has promised to invest ₹5,000 crore in Karnataka in the first phase of investment, said Murugesh Rudrappa Nirani, Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries.

The Minister further said Foxconn was ready to invest ₹50,000 crore in the State over a period. Mr. Nirani was speaking at the Annual Members Meet 2023 of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Karnataka, here on Monday.

He said Karnataka was number one in ease of doing business and in FDI in the country.

The State alone attracted 38% of the total FDI that came to the country. In aerospace and defense, the State accounted for 63% share that's because all major multinational companies in the aerospace sector have set up their R&D centre in the State, the Minister said.

Mr. Nirani also said the government was hoping to generate 7 to 8 lakh jobs in the State from ₹9.81 lakh crore worth of MOUs signed. Making land available for industrial development was of high priority and the government was in the process of availing land parcels of 50,000 acres in the State including 20,000 acres in Bengaluru and over 30,000 acres of land outside the city, he said.

From Page One

H3N2 virus: 'Don't panic, don't pop antibiotics without advice'

He said that the spread of infection can be prevented through measures like cleanliness, preventing crowding, and hand hygiene. Providing statistics of cases, the Health Minister said 20 cases of H1N1 and 26 cases of H3N2 were detected from January to March this year. Two cases of this infection have been found in Bengaluru. There were also 10 cases of Influenza B 10 and 69 cases of Adeno virus infection in the same period. "Many people have been consuming antibiotic pills on their own. Experts have said it is not right to take medicine without doctor's advice and have advised not to take antibiotics unnecessarily. Medicines need to be given based on symptoms," the Minister said.

Even before the start of summer, temperatures were on the rise and this led to health issues. "Avoid exposure to sun from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drink at least 2-3 litres of water, buttermilk, fruit juices," he said, underlining the need for hydration. "This infection will clear out within 2-5 days. People who have had COVID-19 earlier seem to have more cough when infected," said Dr. Sudhakar.

A committee has been formed to cap the price of testing for the infection. "We are taking measures to ensure testing is available at low rates," he said. The fee for the examination would be fixed after the report was received from the committee.

Salumarada Thimmakka. FILE PHOTO

Morphed pictures: Case filed against unknown persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North Division cyber crime police are on the lookout for a person who sent morphed photos of centenarian and environmentalist and Nadoja awardee Salumarada Thimmakka.

Based on a plaint by her foster son, Umesh B.S., the police registered a case against the accused charging them under section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the IT Act, 2000. Mr. Umesh said he received the message on his mobile with a morphed phonograph of his mother with someone along with lewd messages. Mr. Umesh also shared the mobile number of the person who sent the messages.

First batch of Rashtriya Military School girl cadets set to join the armed forces

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seven months after they became the first batch of girl cadets to join the Rashtriya Military School (RMS), six girl cadets have adapted themselves to the working environment of this Bengaluru-based institution which is one of the feeder organisations for the armed forces.

In an interaction with the media on Monday, as part of the International Women's Day celebrations, the first batch of girl cadets for the academic year 2022-23 cadets Harshi Patel from Gujarat, Varsha Yadav from Haryana, Diljan Kaur from Punjab, Gowri Deepa from Andhra Pradesh, Simran Pareda from Odisha and Cadet Aditi Mehra from Uttar Pradesh who joined RMS, after the 75-year-old institution opened its doors for girls last year, have their eyes firmly set on the their goal – which is to become officers in the armed forces.

"When we got to know that the girl cadets would be allowed to join the RMS, my family decided that I join the school. As my grandfather was from the air force, he always inspired me to join the armed forces," said Cadet Patel. A common feature of all the six cadets is that their family members belong to armed forces, some of them still serving while others have retired.

Students of the first batch of girl cadets taking part in the Weapons Display at Rashtriya Military School in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A typical day

Cadet Patel said that a typical day at the school starts early in the morning with physical training followed by breakfast, classes, lunch, games and other activities followed by dinner.

Cadet Yadav said that the environment in RMS is very different from the school she studied prior to joining as there was emphasis on all round development of the cadets.

The faculty at RMS said that the training given to the girl cadets were on par with the boy cadets.

T.S. Suresh in-charge education, RMS said that there are five military schools in the country run by the Ministry of Defence and that there are two entry levels one is at the class 6 is second is at class 9 for class 6.

He added that for the academic year 2022-23, 55,000 applicants appeared for the examination all over India for 300 seats for class 6 in the five five military schools.

Sainik School Bijapur

Like the RMA, another educational establishment under the Ministry of Defence Sainik School in Bijapur too has 30 girl cadets at present. The intake for girl cadets started in 20-21 and the 30 girl cadets are presently studying in class 6, 7 and 8.

Cadets Poorthi H.P. and B. Yashwitha Yadav said that the Sainik school offered them all development both in terms of education as well as in training them in physical activities.

Woman, two children die in fire accident

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A woman and her two children died at Shaktinagar in Raichur district on Monday evening. The deceased were identified as Ranjitha, 33, wife of Siddalingaiah Swamy, an engineer in the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS), and her children, Mrudula, 13, and Taurnya, 6.

Mrudula was a Class VI student at DAV School in Shaktinagar and Tarunya was in UKG in the same school. As per the Raichur Police, the AC at the RTPS employees' quarters where the family was living developed some functional problems and caught fire which spread to the entire residence causing the loss of lives. The family was from Dalavoykodihalli village at Malavalli taluk of Mandya. "Mr. Siddalingaiah Swamy is an Assistant Executive Engineer in the RTPS. His wife and children died in the fire. As per preliminary information, the AC in the house which had some issues caught fire and the fire expanded to the entire house and killed the three inside. Neighbours rushed to help and informed the police. But, by the time police and firefighters arrived, all three were dead. Mr. Swamy was not at home. We have informed the family members of the victims," Raichur SP Nikhil B. told *The Hindu*.

Chat with School Exam and Assessment Board officials today

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is officially exam season. As the countdown to the II PU and class X board exams begins, #THTalksBengaluru provides students and parents with the opportunity of talking to officials from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board.

On March 7, Prasanna Kumar, senior assistant director (examination) for Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, along with subject experts, will answer your questions as they participate in #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

They will answer a wide range of questions from examination phobia, exam preparations, concentration problems, to confusion in the subject.

You can send in your questions via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat on Tuesday.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 18:30	SET 06:27
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 08	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 19:17	SET 07:03
THURSDAY, MAR. 09	
RISE 06:31	SET 18:29
RISE 20:03	SET 07:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	21
Mysuru	33	19
Bengaluru	32	17

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C A dry weather to continue. Day will belittle warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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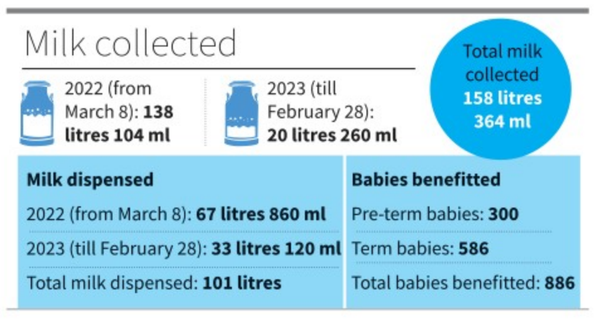
Vani Vilas NICU formula feed-free since new year, thanks to milk bank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thanks to the human breast milk bank at Vani Vilas Hospital, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is free of formula feed since the new year. This the first time that the milk bank, started on March 8, 2022, on Women's Day and about to complete a year, has made the hospital self-sufficient and the NICU formula feed-free for two consecutive months.

The milk bank has till date collected 158 litres and 364 ml of human breast milk, and dispensed 101 litres to 886 babies, of which 300 were preterm babies. The milk bank has also provided lactation counselling for 4,906 mothers.



The milk bank collects excess breast milk from new mothers, pasteurises and stores it to be fed to newborn babies in need, usually when a mother's own milk is unavailable. "The burden of low birth weight babies in various hospitals in the country is around 20% with significant mortality and morbidities in the country. Feeding these babies with breastmilk can significantly reduce the risk of infections. Vani Vilas Hospital, particularly, faces challenges, having one of the highest number of low birth weight babies," a statement from Vani Vilas Hospital said.

C. Savita, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, said that the milk bank has made the hospital self-sufficient and for the first time for two months, the NICU unit had been formula feed-free. "Even now, it is precarious. If the demand shoots up, we may have to revert to formula feed in parts," she said. "We need to create awareness and motivate more new mothers to donate their excess breast milk. Presently, we are collecting breast milk from everyone, but providing milk only to babies who are delivered at our hospital and are in need. We also need to augment our infrastructure and add another deep freezer. We are open to philanthropic contributions as well," Dr. Savita said.

ओएनजीसी
ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Expression of Interest (EOI) From Consultants from Exploration & Production Companies/Service Companies for advice on improvement of recovery and production enhancement from Mumbai High Asset for period of 36 months.

ONGC intends to improve recovery and production from its major multi-layered Mumbai High field and marginal fields. Mumbai High field along with Marginal fields is producing around oil around 151000 bopd. However, focus is in Mumbai High due to more than 90% reserve and production. Mumbai High field with water flooding achieved a recovery of around 28.6%. Improving the sweep efficiency of water injection and reservoir pressure maintenance is currently the most challenging area towards improving the recovery and enhancing production from this field.
In this regard, ONGC intends to engage a consultant order to achieve improved recovery and production enhancement.
For further details on scope of work (SoW) please refer to **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**

Submission of Expression of Interest

Interested parties are requested to submit their response on or before **22.03.2023** through hard copy / e-mail to Executive Director – Asset Manager Mumbai High Asset, ONGC with cc to Mr. M.A.Z.Mallik, General Manager (Res) mail ID: **mallik_ahmad@ongc.co.in**. Last date of submission of EOI for participation is **22.03.2023**

For further details, please visit ONGC e-portal: https://tenders.ongc.co.in

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As Madal Virupakshappa case puts the focus back on corruption, BJP struggles to contain damage

Senior party leaders fear the episode may hit its poll efforts to project development agenda if the MLA is not disowned

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The episode of BJP MLA and former Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. chairman Madal Virupakshappa finding himself in the Lokayukta net on corruption changes has embarrassed the ruling BJP leaders and given a handle to the Opposition to put the focus back again on corruption, ahead of Assembly elections.

This episode has come just when the campaign for the Assembly elections is getting serious, with back-to-back visits of Central BJP leaders.

Madal Virupakshappa

'40% commission'

The Congress has been carrying out a campaign against the BJP ever since the Karnataka Contractors' Association publicly accused the BJP government of demanding 40% commission to clear their bills and award contracts. The campaign has become part of political narrative of the Congress against the BJP ahead of polls.

The BJP leaders were of the view that they had just managed to overshadow this through repeated visits of its Central leaders, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to the State to project development agenda. But the Virupakshappa episode has brought the focus back on corruption, with the Opposition parties launching an intensified campaign.

This has particularly caused anxiety in the BJP as there is a general belief in political circles that the forthcoming Assembly elections are going to be tough. Karnataka's poll history has shown that no ruling party has retained power in the last 38 years. At a time when every seat counts, any possibility of losing a few seats may hit the party's poll fortunes, feel a few senior leaders.

Hence, the party is thinking of damage control exercises like disowning Mr. Virupakshappa if he is nailed in further investigations. This means the MLA is bound to lose party ticket if the investigation digs deep into corruption. Some senior leaders feel that the party's image will suffer if serious action is not taken against the MLA.

The indications of it came with veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday calling for the arrest of Mr. Virupakshappa and saying that the party would not tolerate corruption. Mr. Virupakshappa is being seen as a staunch follower of Mr. Yediyurappa and was one of the few MLAs from the BJP who had followed Mr. Yediyurappa to KJP in 2013. Hence, the BJP is trying to get Mr. Yediyurappa himself to launch an offensive against the MLA who is in the dock.

Speaking to the media after participating in Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra in Kalaburagi, he said: "There is no second thought that Virupakshappa should be arrested and action should be initiated against him."

Before Central leaders

Sources in the BJP State unit say that the party is expected to place facts before the Central leaders and abide by their decision. It remains to be seen whether the BJP will be able to insulate its poll prospects from the impact of the episode.

Congress promise of free power is only 'power politics': CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar at the inauguration of the Bescom Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday attacked the Congress for its recent election promise to provide 200 units of free power to all households every month if voted to power in the State, calling it 'power politics'.

"Without knowing the present situation of the Energy Department, a few are into 'power politics' which is an attempt to deceive the people by giving a false promise that they will be given 200 units of free electricity," he said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Centre of Excellence built by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) in HSR Layout along with 17 new buildings in the eight districts of Bescom jurisdiction. He also laid the foundation stone for eight new office buildings on the same day.

Cost of projects

The new sub-division offices in seven districts have been constructed at a cost of ₹77.15 crore while the Centre of Excellence and a training centre in Ramanagara have been constructed at a cost of ₹28.96 crore and ₹26.55 crore, respectively.

"Due to unscientific policies, the Energy Department is under loss. Earlier, we have seen political power being used in the department with the intention of benefiting someone. However, our government is taking all measures to prevent its misuse," Mr. Bommai said, without naming anyone.

In January, the Congress promised to provide 200 units of free power to all households in the State if the party is voted to power in Karnataka.

Joining the Chief Minister, Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar alleged that Congress' promise of 200 units of free power is a bid towards privatisation of electricity supply companies (Escoms) in the State. "By providing free power, Escoms will be burdened more. Then, the loss-making Escoms will be privatised," he claimed.

Mangaluru cooker blast case prime accused taken into NIA custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mangaluru cooker blast case prime accused H. Mohammad Shariq, who was being treated at the Victoria hospital for over two and half months, was discharged on Monday, and taken into NIA custody.

The accused, who sustained injuries along with the autorickshaw driver while transporting the bomb, was shifted to Victoria hospital from a hospital in Mangaluru on December 17, last year.

NIA officials were escorting him at the hospital day and night to ensure his custody to probe his links with the global terror network and its operations in India.

Took place in Nov.

The blast occurred on November 19, 2022 in a moving auto. The cooker bomb was allegedly designed to carry out a large-scale attack to fuel communal tension in the coastal region and in the State.

Shariq's questioning gained importance as a terror outfit recently claimed responsibility.

Transported in an auto

Terror suspect Shariq, a BCom graduate, along with his associate Maaz Munir, assembled the cooker bomb and he was transporting in an auto to keep it in a crowded place for maximum casualties, officials said.

MLA moves HC for anticipatory bail and stay of probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP MLA K. Madal Virupakshappa, 74, on Monday moved the High Court of Karnataka seeking anticipatory bail and stay of investigation against him in the bribery case registered against him, his son, and others after the Lokayukta police caught his son red-handed taking bribe of ₹40 lakh from a businessman.

Justice K. Natarajan, before whom the advocate for Mr. Madal made a plea for urgent hearing on the petition for anticipatory bail on Monday, said the petition would be taken up for hearing on Tuesday.

Claiming that the allegations made in the First Information Report (FIR) are inherently improbable on the basis of which no prudent person can ever reach a just conclusion that there is sufficient ground for proceeding against him, the MLA sought bail stating that there is no chance of him fleeing as he is a person of good repute and a present MLA representing Channagiri Assembly constituency.

In his plea, Mr. Madal, who has been arraigned as accused number one in the FIR, has contended that there is neither any allegation against him in the FIR that he had, as the chairperson of the Karnataka State Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSSDL), demanded bribe to show official favour nor accepted bribe from the complainant.

The accused MLA also claimed that he has neither contacted the complainant nor received any illegal gratification to influence public servants to act in a particular manner. Besides, the MLA claimed that he was not in-charge of tendering process in the KSSDL as it was the officials concerned who had accepted the bids of the complainant.

The MLA's son, Prashanth Madal, who is the Chief Accounts Officer of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, was caught while accepting a portion of the bribe amount from the complainant on March 2.

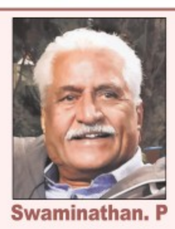
'It's not BJP's intention to bring a class of people to power'

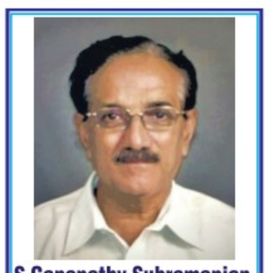
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leader Bhoopendra Yadav on Monday appealed to people to give one more opportunity to the party in Karnataka to govern by remarking that the party's forthcoming pre-poll manifesto never intended to bring any family or particular class of people to power. "Our manifesto is being prepared with an intention of making the country more stronger at this *amruthakaala* (platinum jubilee of the country's Independence)," Mr. Yadav said, while addressing a meeting convened to invite suggestions for the BJP's manifesto in Bengaluru.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH


Swaminathan. P
(Age: 80 years)
Attained Moksham on 05.03.2023
Deeply Mourned by
Wife, Daughter, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Son-in-law and Grandchildren
Last rites on 07.03.2023, 10.00 am at home and cremation at Kalpalli by 1.00 pm
No.214, 8th Main, HRBR Layout, 1st Block Kalyananagar, Bangalore – 560 043
Contact : 99800 43847


S Ganapathy Subramanian
S/o. Porumbur Sivaramaiyer
(Pharma Biotek)
81 yrs has left for his heavenly abode on Mar 5, 2023.
Mourned by his wife, Susheela, children Nirupama, Ganesh, Navin
Ph: 044 4855 3970

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(KARNATAKA RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURGI-585105
No:EE/RWS&SD/Tech/2022-23/3711 Dated : 04-03-2023

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (CORRIGENDUM)

The tender called by Executive Engineer Rural drinking water & Sanitation, division, Kalaburagi for drinking water supply works vide tender notification no 3595 dated 27-02-2023 (Indent No 58318 & 58319) as been extended i.e., Last of date for submission of bid is **14-03-2023** upto 4.00pm, pre bid meeting dated **08-03-2023** Opening of Technical bid is **15-03-2023 at 5.00pm** and Opening of Financial bid is **17-03-2023 at 11.00am** and the rest of conditions remains same as in the main tender notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1428/MC&A/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ-ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ -581 301.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-228935 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 229735 e-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com
ನಂ.: ಕಾನಿಇ0/ಗ್ರಕುನಿನೈವಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಪಿಬಿ-1/ಆಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್/JJM/2022-23/2376 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2023

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

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1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: **03.03.2023 to 17.03.2023 up to 16.30 Hrs.** 2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: **10.03.2023 Time: 11.30 Hrs.** Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Po: Habbuwada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **17.03.2023 Time: 16.30 Hrs.** (4) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **18.03.2023 Time: 17:30 Hrs**. (5) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ.ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/1076/22-23 dt.02.03.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to purchase immovable property bearing New Municipal No. 55, (Old plot No.5), PID No. 75-24-55, 3rd Main, Saraswathipura, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, Bengaluru, consisting of Ground & First Floors and bounded on the East By : Sri. Seethappa's Land, West By : Site No. 4, North by : The New Main Road, South by : Another Road, Measuring Eastern side : 50 ft, Western side : 50 ft, Northern side:33½ ft, Southern Side:38 ft, In all Measuring 1787.5 sq ft, from its owner **Mrs. SHAKUNTALA RAJ @ SHAKUNTALA RAJARAM,** W/o., Late., Mr. Rajaram Alwar, No. 55, Old No. 5, 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, Saraswathipuram, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, B'lore, Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01. M : 9341380225

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Muniraju** S/o Late Pillappa, R/at. Venkatapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, have interested to Purchase the below mentioned schedule property. Now the Vendor of the Schedule property by name **N. Narayanaswamy** S/o Late Nagappareddy absolute owner of the schedule property and he is in peaceful possession and enjoyment. The Public is hereby inform that any person having any kind of objection for Sale conveyance of the schedule property by the Vendor herein above or any person even claiming any right, interest or share or any part of the schedule property, thereby such persons should immediately contact us of the address or through proof with their documents or client proof within **Seven (7) days** from the date publication in this Public Notice, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, failing which it would be deemed that there is no such objection/claim and my client would complete the sale transactions accordingly.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that agricultural landed property bearing Sy.No.181 measuring 2 Acres 28 guntas and Phut Karab 0-12 guntas situated at Valasenahalli Village, Bashettihalli Hobli, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, and bounded on

East by : Gomal land, **West by :** Land belongs to Subbammanavara Mariyappa, **North by :** Land belongs to Narayanaswamy, **South by :** Land belongs to Kaleem Sab.

HAREESH .M, Advocate
Office : Venkamma Complex, Near Taluk Office, Hoskote - 562 114.
Mob : 9972428692
Date : 06.03.2023

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: 908/BGK/Tr.(W&M)/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-1&2/F-53/7760-68 & 7769-78 Date: 06.03.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tender on Electronic mode for the supply of following materials:

(1) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/CIRCLE/22-23/11KVCT/VJP** for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Suply of 0.2s Accuracy Class 148 Nos. of 11kV Outdoor Oil immersed Current Transformers required at TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Vijayapur coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Bagalkote.

(2) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/2022-23/IND2364** for Supply and Installation of Office furniture to Divisional office Complex, KPTCL, Vijayapur coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Bagalkote.

The tenders will be received through e-procurement mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e-procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 07.03.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, Opp. Sector No. 45, KPTCL Zonal Office Complex, Navanagara, Bagalkot-587103.
Ph: 08354-236032/236029

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Buildings Division, 2nd Floor,
PWD Annexue Building, K.R.Circle, Benglauru-01
Ph:080-22133370, Fax: 080-22133365
No. 60/2022-23 Date: 04.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in Hosakote & Devanahalli Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e-procurement procedure. Tender Notification are Published for 4 works (Rs. 20.00 to 200.00 Lakhs) Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from dated: **04.03.2023 onwards.**
2. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **11.00 AM on dated 13.03.2023**
3. The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated**: 14.03.2023 at 11.30 AM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

DIPR/DD-CP/5097/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

CAUTION NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client Mr. RAJU MAMIDALA, S/o Rajaiah Mamidala and Mrs. LAKSHMI BANDI, W/o Raju Mamidala, both R/o H.No. 5-12-222/22A. Flat No. 102, Sri Eswari Enclave, Mangapuram, Secunderabad - 500 040 had terminated and cancelled unregistered GPA Notarized dt. 30.10.2013 in the State of Florida executed by them in favour of HARIKRISHNA BANDI, S/o Kanakaiah Bandi, R/o 98, 2nd Main, Mico Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, BANGALORE-560 076 as he was venturing to misuse the powers conferred therein in respect of the immovable properties standing in the name of my clients for which a separate legal notice dt. 06.03.2023 is also sent to his personal addressee in Bangalore, Karnataka.

As such the General Public are hereby warned not to negotiate or deal with the above said person in the event of the said person proclaiming as the GPA holder of my clients in respect of any of their immovable properties standing in the names of my clients and even in spite of this notice, if any person or persons proceed to deal with the said properties they shall be doing so at their own risks and consequences for which my clients shall be no way responsible.

Hence, this Caution Notice.

P. D. VINEELA
Advocate
407, 4th Floor, Vishnu Homes, Near Savera Function Hall, Yousufguda, Hyderabad - 045. Cell : 77026 52848

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

Chief Engineer(Ele)., O&M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga invites tender for the following Civil Engineering works coming under jurisdiction of **Chitradurga Zone** through e-procurement mode only (Two cover system). **No: CEE/CZ/EE(C)/F-2&3/2022-23/10943 Date: 28.02.2023**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Sub-Division office, O&M 1, 2 section office building & other allied works at **Koratagere (KPTCL Premises), Madhugiri Division.**	215.00	3,22,500/-
2	Construction of Office complex to accommodate city Sub-Division, Rural Sub-Division and O&M 1, 2, 3 Section office building & other allied works at **Sira, (KPTCL premises) in Madhugiri Division**	370.00	5,55,000/-
3	Construction of Sub-Division office building at BESCOM premises, **Kodigenahalli in Madhugiri Tq**	115.00	1,72,500/-
4	Balance works pertaining to construction of O&M-1 and O&M-2 Section office building, works unit office and other allied works at BESCOM colony Premises, **Gubbi.**	27.50	55,000/-
5	Construction of city Sub-division, central section office & other allied works building at **BESCOM OEC colony premises, Tumkur.**	200.00	3,00,000/-
6	Construction of **Saraswathipuram Section office** building & other allied works at newly allotted site by **TUDA, Tumkur.**	80.00	1,60,000/-
7	Improvements to BESCOM sub-division office building with converting Gents toilet as store room and providing Gents toilet at terrace, water supply and other allied works at **Gubbi.**	10.00	25,000/-

The prospective bidders interested to participate are advised to register their user ID under website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and log-in into e-procurement on or after **10.03.2023.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Ele)., O & M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

Dattatreya Bababudan Swami Peetha-Dargah rituals: HC dismisses appeal by Shah Khadri

Says that the dispute needs to be put to rest in the absence of any controversy either by members of Hindu or Muslim communities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Monday upheld the verdict of a single judge, which had declared that the Government Order of 2018 on rituals to be performed at Sree Dattatreya Bababudan Swami Peetha-Dargah in Chikkamagaluru infringed on the rights of both Hindus and Muslims.

"We concur with the conclusion recorded by the single judge that the order, dated March 19, 2018, passed by the State government was violative of Article 25 of the Constitution of India, in as much as it prevented the Hindus from performing puja as per their faith and compelled the mujawar to offer puja contrary to his faith," said a Division Bench comprising Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil.

The single judge had said that the State government's 2018 order had imposed upon the mujawar to perform 'paduka puja' and to light 'nanda deepa' contrary to his faith while infringing the rights of Hindus to perform puja as per their faith. The Division Bench passed the order while dismissing an appeal filed by Syed Gouse Mohiyuddin, Shah Khadri of Sree Dattatreya Bababudan Swami Peetha-Dargah in Chikkamagaluru, who had questioned the single judge's September 18, 2021, verdict. Also, the Bench agreed with the conclusion of the single judge, who fouswnd that the report of a three-member high-level committee, headed by a retired HC judge, was "not free from bias" as the HLC had rejected the second report of the Endowment Commissioner, before whom one of the members of the HLC had deposed on the same issue by expressing his stand on the issue.

Re-examined

As the single judge had directed the State to reconsider the 2018 decision, the government in 2022, with the leave of the Division Bench, had set up a Cabinet sub-committee to revisit the manner in which rituals were to be performed at the shrine. The single judge had passed the order on the petition filed by Sri Guru Dattareya Peeta Devasthana Samvardhana Samithi, Chikkamagaluru, questioning the legality of the 2018 Order.

Priests and Mujawar

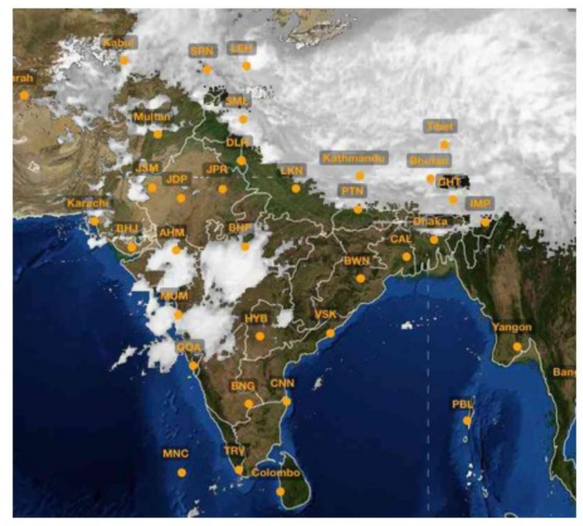
Later, the government, based on the Cabinet sub-committee's recommendations, constituted a management committee comprising both Hindus and Muslims to manage the shrine under the provisions of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, and notified the manner of performing Hindu and Muslim rituals by a Hindu priest and Muslim mujawar respectively.

"The dispute, which rose five decades ago, needs to be put to rest in the absence of any controversy either by members of Hindu or Muslim communities," the Bench said while observing that "the appellant, the members of Hindu and Muslim community by their conduct have made the religious institution as shining example of true secularism."

"The religious institution is composite in nature where members of both the communities are devotees... The State government has dealt with the sensitive issue in a pragmatic manner and has taken an action to manage the religious institution after consulting the representatives of both the communities. The committee constituted by the State government is managing the affairs of the religious institution without any complaint from any section of society," the Bench observed.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty wind/hail likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Marathwada and central Maharashtra and with lightning at isolated places over Chhattisgarh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	19.0	Kozhikode	—	35.6	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	37.6	21.0	Kurnool	—	37.2	20.1
Aizawl	—	33.5	13.5	Lucknow	—	31.2	16.5
Allahabad	—	33.8	16.4	Madurai	—	35.7	22.1
Bengaluru	—	32.4	17.3	Mangaluru	—	36.4	21.2
Bhopal	—	33.2	17.0	Mumbai	—	39.3	25.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.0	19.9	Mysuru	—	33.0	19.4
Chandigarh	—	30.8	15.2	New Delhi	—	30.5	15.0
Chennai	—	32.1	23.1	Patna	—	32.7	18.5
Coimbatore	—	35.0	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.7	24.2
Dehradun	—	29.0	12.4	Puducherry	—	33.2	20.4
Gangtok	0.8	18.5	12.4	Pune	—	33.6	20.0
Goa	—	36.1	21.2	Raipur	—	36.2	21.6
Guwahati	—	31.3	20.4	Ranchi	—	32.6	19.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	—	21.8	11.0
Hyderabad	—	34.7	19.5	Shimla	—	18.7	8.4
Imphal	—	29.8	13.0	Srinagar	—	18.8	3.5
Jaipur	—	32.8	17.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	24.3
Kochi	—	32.4	25.4	Tiruchi	—	34.7	21.4
Kohima	—	22.6	11.0	Vijayawada	—	35.6	20.4
Kolkata	—	33.8	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.5	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	—	.23	303	227	
Bengaluru	6	.12	.26	105	97	
Chennai	.26	—	.39	126	99	
Delhi	.10	.28	.45	267	178	
Hyderabad	.33	.85	.26	150	139	
Kolkata	.14	.13	.51	174	124	
Lucknow	.26	.57	.45	149	123	
Mumbai	.72	268	.99	257	203	
Pune	.97	135	113	269	157	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.62	.63	160	217	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Villagers rescue four tiger cubs in Andhra Pradesh

Ramesh Susarla
NANDYAL

Residents of Pedda Gummadapuram village in Andhra Pradesh rescued four tiger cubs from dogs, which were attacking them on Monday on the fringes of the Nallamala forest. The village is located in Kothapalli Mandal of Atmakur Forest Division.

Atmakur Forest Divisional Officer Alan Chong Teron told *The Hindu* that all the four cubs were healthy females and from preliminary estimate could be little over two months old. "We do not know if their mother abandoned them or will come back to take the litter back into the jungle. We waited a whole day at the spot hoping for the mother to return, but she did not appear," Mr. Chong Teron said.

Timely action: One of the tiger cubs rescued by residents of Pedda Gummadapuram village in Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The villagers found the cubs in a rocky, grassy wasteland just outside the forest limits adjoining the village, on Monday morning. However, the terrified villagers did not harm the cubs. They put them in baskets in a secure manner and kept them in a store room at the village.

Wait on for mother

They also informed the Forest Department officials, who reached the location to take control of the cubs.

Senior forest officials, including Srisailam Tiger Reserve Field Director Y. Srinivasa Reddy, are trying to ascertain if the mother of the cubs was still searching for them or had abandoned them. If the officials come to a conclusion that the mother had abandoned them or was not accepting them now (which happens in many cases), the healthy cubs would be sent to a zoo.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Forces Y. Madhusudan Reddy has been keeping a close watch on the progress at the ground level.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Manchanabele Project Division Ramanagara - 562 159.
Email-eempdrmgm@gmail.com (080-27271259)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No : 15/22-23 dt : 23.02.2023

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the work under 4701 head of account through E-Procurement. The last date for tender submission, Opening of Technical Bid and Pre-Bid dates are mentioned through e-portal for EMD and other details please visit the above website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.P. Division, Ramanagara

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd.,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL. M.L.B.C.C.Division No.2. Naviluteertha-591116
TQ. Saundatti. Dist Belagavi.Dn. e-mail:eemlbcnth@gmail.com
Ph: - 08330-224516 Dn. Fax : 08330 224529
No.MLBCC-2/DB-1/4701/2022-23 / 4202 Dated : 06-03-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Through E-Portal system only) Two cover system (on Turnkey basis)

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2, Naviluthеertha, on behalf of M.D., KNNL Bangalore for taking up the following work from the Eligible contractors registered under KPWD The tenderers are required to apply in two cover system (as per KTTP act 2000)

Work Indent Number 36298
Estimated amount from Rs. 204.70 Crores
1. Pre Bid Meeting on 10-03-2023 @11.00 AM. 2.Date of receipt :14-03-2023 up to 4.00 PM. 3. Cover –I Technical will be opened on 16-03-2023 at 11.00 AM

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- (P.V.Mullur.)
Executive Engineer,
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1962/KSMCA/2022-23 KNNL, MLBCC.Dn. no.2 Naviluteertha.

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/JJM TENDER22-23/2022-23/3069
Dated:04-03-2023

1.Short term Re-Tender Notification NO-21/2022-23 (Single &Two Cover System) 2nd Call (e-procurement portal)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for Providing FHTCs Works in K.R.Pete Tq Mandya District from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting **Dt:09.03.2023 Time:11:00 AM (Place: O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya),** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:**13.03.2023 Time :05:30 PM,** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:**14.03.2023 Time:05:35 PM** . Date & Time of Financial Bid **Opening:18.03.2023 Time:11:00 AM.** Amount Put to tender Maximum: Rs.340.42 Lakhs. More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or from this office during working hours.Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya
DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/759/2022-23

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

One & TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 26/2022-23 DATED: 04.03.2023

On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply &Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has Invited the Tender for the works of Hassan & Sakaleshapura Taluk Approved under 2021-22 & 2022-23 JJM & Hassan Taluk Approved under 2022-23/4515 Grant WPP Mention Below, Single Cover System works Hassan Taluk 11 Works- (SC-06 & ST-04) Sakaleshapura Taluk 33 Works- (SC-25 & ST-08) Two Cover System works Hassan Taluk 108 Works (General) Sakaleshapura Taluk 70 Works (General) Above work tenders are invited in One & Two cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From 04-03-2023 After 5.30P.M . The bidder should submitted the tender with in the dated: 13-03-2023 before 4-00 P.M. On Dated :07-03-2023 The Pre-bid Meeting will be conducted in this office, Interested Contractor may participated. Venue : Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Zilla Panchyath Building, N.R,Circle Hassan. The Technical bid will open on dated : 14-03-2023 after 17.00 P.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated: 15-03-2023 after 17.30 P.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights of to cancel all tender or any one tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/1192/2022–23

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Div., Chitradurga.
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB-2/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 58/2022-23/ DATE: 04.03.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.-2/3 (TWO COVER SISTEM)

Item rate tender in two cover system as per rule 28 of KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I & II contractors Registered in PWD & Eligible Agency/Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal. The tender documents may be downloaded from official website of Karnataka Government. Tender should be submitted through online in official e- procurement portal only. Tenders will be opened as per the guidelines of e-procurement portal.

Eligibility of Contractors: Class-I Contractors Registered K. P.W.D. Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender: 20.03.2023 upto 05:30 P.M. Last Date for submission of Tenders: 21.03.2023 upto 04:00 P.M. Date & Time of Opening of Tender (If possible): Technical - 22.03.2023 after 04:30 P.M. Financial - 23.03.2023 after 10:30 A.M.

Name of work: 1) Improvements to Feeder canal of vaddina kere near Channeshapura Village in Channagiri taluk Davanagere Dist. Amount put to Tender: Rs. 85.00 Lakhs. 2) Improvements to Yarehalli (Near Chikkamallanholle) Tank in Jagalur taluk Davangere Ditrict (Reserved for ST Category Contractors only) call-2. Amount put to Tender: Rs. 43.73 Lakhs. 3) Improvements to Musturu Tank in Jagalur taluk Davangere Ditrict (Reserved for ST Category Contractors Only) call-2. Amount put to Tender: Rs. 42.83 Lakhs.

Note: Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 07.03.2023. Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

RO No. 1093: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer

BENGALURU CITY POLICE
STRENGTHENING HUMAN RESOURCES, INFUSING TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR BETTER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT THROUGH OPENING OF 4 NEW TRAFFIC POLICE STATIONS IN BENGALURU

SHRI BASAVARAJ S. BOMMAI
Hon'ble Chief Minister

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN BENGALURU

- Contactless enforcement for traffic violations
- Junction improvement
- AI based cameras for detection of traffic offences
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology
- Detection of traffic offences by RLVD cameras
- ITMS technology for smooth flow of traffic
- 5 new traffic police stations sanctioned
- Creation of 2000 posts at various levels to strengthen Bengaluru City Police
- Installation of adoptive traffic signal lights at 163 Junctions (Phase-I) at a cost of Rs.58 Crores
- Improvement of Road Infrastructure in 12 High Density Corridors at a cost of Rs.150 Crores

Strengthening traffic infrastructure by establishment of traffic police stations at Bellandur, Mahadevpura, Hennur and Talaghattapura.

Inauguration by:
SHRI BASAVARAJ S. BOMMAI
Hon'ble Chief Minister
7th March 2023,
4.00 pm Bellandur, 4.30 pm Mahadevapura
5.00 pm Hennur & Talaghattapura (Virtual)

In presence of:
SHRI ARAGA JNANENDRA
Hon'ble Home Minister

Presided by:
Bellanduru Traffic Police Station
Shri. M. Sathish Reddy
Chief WHIP & Hon'ble MLA, Bommanahalli Constituency

Mahadevapura Traffic Police Station
Shri. Aravinda Limbavali
Hon'ble MLA, Mahadevapura Constituency

Hennuru Traffic Police Station
Shri. B.A. Basavaraj (Byrathi)
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development

Thalagattapura Traffic Police Station
Shri. S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation

All are welcome

To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem - Is the fundamental duty of every citizen

KARNATAKA INFORMATION
Dept. of Information & Public Relations

Role and remit

Questions arise over Court-appointed panel's remit in Adani case

It is difficult to welcome unequivocally the Supreme Court order forming a committee to look into possible regulatory failure in dealing with the allegations that the Adani Group companies flouted norms in the securities market. The Court has done well to make it clear that the committee's constitution will not divest the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) of its powers and responsibilities in continuing with its probe. In addition, it has said SEBI should also investigate the charge that the companies failed to maintain the minimum public shareholding or disclose transactions involving related parties. To the extent that it holds the regulator to its claim that it is already seized of the matter, as well as expands its remit to address squarely the allegation that funds controlled by related parties were used to manipulate stock prices, the order is quite welcome. However, a relevant question is whether a committee headed by a former Supreme Court judge is needed at all. SEBI has been asked to share its findings with the panel, but it is doubtful if the committee can avoid going into the charges on its own before it can confirm or rule out regulatory failure. The cause may have been better served if the Court had chosen to monitor SEBI's inquiry by seeking progress reports. And it may have taken the help of experts, if necessary, to assess the final outcome. The other aspect of the panel's work – suggesting measures to strengthen the regulatory framework – could have been left to the legislature. Also, that the Court has asked for the panel's report in a sealed cover is disappointing. The fate of similar committees, the one on Pegasus, for instance, does not inspire confidence about the outcome.

The order also asks the committee to ascertain the causal factors that led to volatility in the market. The severe losses suffered by retail investors following the Hindenburg revelations should not become a red herring to divert attention from the conduct of the companies. Investor protection is one of SEBI's functions, but it is equally true that no measure can be a guarantee against market forces reacting sensitively to developments. There is an inherent and perpetual risk in stock market investments, and it is addressed from a regulatory viewpoint by various means – prescribing norms and mandating disclosures to setting upper and lower limits on daily price movement. It may be expedient for the Adani Group – and the government, which also wants this controversy to blow over soon – to highlight investor losses so that a quick exoneration is ensured by putting the blame on an alleged plot against the country and its corporate champions by an inimical short-seller; but the Court's focus should be on SEBI's conduct and independent functioning, preserving which alone can protect investors from market manipulators.

Logical formation

The NPP's expanded mandate should allow it to lead a stable coalition

The term "fractured mandate" aptly describes the results of the Meghalaya Assembly election. While the incumbent National People's Party led by Conrad Sangma emerged as the single largest with 26 seats (gaining seven since 2018) in the 60-member Assembly, the fact that there were seven other parties with at least two seats besides two independents presented a mandate which necessitated a deft post-election coalition. Former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma of the Trinamool Congress tried to orchestrate a new coalition without the NPP and the BJP (two seats), but his party had won only five seats, thus making such an alliance improbable. Any coalition stitched together with smaller parties would have been unstable. The BJP had come out of its alliance with the NPP and fought all 60 seats, seeking to garner votes by highlighting the corruption in the NPP-led regime, but the party promptly fell in line after the election to support the NPP. It is easy to see why the NPP prefers to align with the BJP – governments in the north-east are dependent upon central fund transfers and keeping the Union government in good humour is seen as an imperative. But for the BJP to promptly join the government after accusing it of corruption also suggests a desperation to utilise the loaves of power to expand its base. After some intrigue, the United Democratic Party, with 11 seats, and the People's Democratic Front, with two seats, offered support to the NPP, which was also bolstered by the endorsement of two independents and the two MLAs of the Hill State People's Democratic Party, giving the coalition a comfortable majority.

While the NPP did not win an absolute majority, it managed to expand its base beyond the Garo Hills with eight victories in the Jaintia Hills and the Khasi Hills regions as well. This has allowed it to supplant the Congress as the only force with a pan-State appeal. With such a mandate, the party must focus on addressing chronic development issues in the State, which still suffers from a high poverty rate – a NITI-Aayog report listed Meghalaya as India's fifth poorest with 32.67% of the population below the poverty line. Corruption, a bane, has hampered infrastructure development; there is much illegal mining in the mineral-rich State. A renewed and expanded mandate for Conrad Sangma, but one that is dependent upon the support of other parties, should ideally keep the government on its toes as long as the coalition partners are more interested in raising policy issues rather than seeking to partake in patronage.

The anti-defection law is facing convulsions

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha

After long years of legislative meanderings, Parliament enacted the anti-defection law (10th Schedule) in 1985 to curb political defection. The volume, intensity, recklessness and uncontrolled venality seen in defections in the 1960s and thereafter almost came to a stop after this. Defections not only caused the frequent fall of governments but also caused great instability in political parties with power-seeking politicians wreaking havoc on political parties. The Supreme Court of India in its first comprehensive judgment in the Kihoto Hollohan case characterised it as a political evil and upheld the right of Parliament to curb this evil through legislative mechanism.

Years have passed and this promise of political stability seems to be ending with the anti-defection law facing convulsions in Indian legislatures, especially in the last five years. The happenings in the State of Maharashtra are an example.

Sound objectives

But before dealing with the questions of constitutional importance that have arisen in the Maharashtra Assembly, and which are presently before the Supreme Court, it is necessary to make a few general points about the scheme of the anti-defection law in India. In fact, a closer reading of this law will show that this enactment had a two-point objective. The first was to curb the act of defection by disqualifying the defecting member. The second was to protect political parties from debilitating instability. The fact is that frequent defections from even well-organised political parties leave them weak. They find themselves incapable of keeping their flock together as politicians have a tendency to abandon a sinking ship and move out in search of greener pastures. Indian democracy is based essentially on a party system where stable parties are a sine qua non of a stable democracy. Representatives elected otherwise than as members of parties cannot run a government, which is a very complex institution that demands unity of purpose, ideological clarity and cohesiveness – objectives that can only come from organised, ideologically-driven political parties. This is true of every democratic country in the world.

That this objective is the principal focus of the anti-defection law is clear from two provisions enacted in the 10th Schedule, namely the provision of a split in a political party and that of a merger of two political parties. Although 'split' has ceased to be a defence against disqualification with the deletion of paragraph three of the Schedule, a closer look at this erstwhile provision is necessary for a proper understanding of the true objective of this law. Under this paragraph, if a split occurs in a political party resulting in a faction coming into existence, and one-third of the legislators move out of the party and join that faction, those members could get an exemption from disqualification. The point to note here is that one-third of the legislators would get protection only if there was a split in the original political party. So, the split in the original political party is the pre-condition for exempting one-third of legislators from disqualification.

In the Maharashtra case, disqualification proceedings under the 10th Schedule should have been given primacy over the proceedings on the symbols order

In other words, if there was no split in the original political party and one-third of the legislators only moved out, all of them would be liable to be disqualified. With the deletion of this paragraph, a split in the original party is no longer a defence against disqualification. Even when a political party has split, the legislators will not get any protection. That would be the impact of the deletion of paragraph three. But the point is that in order for the legislators to claim protection, a split in the original party was always necessary.

The merger issue

In paragraph four which protects defecting members from disqualification, the condition is merger of the original political party with another party and two-thirds of the legislators agreeing to such a merger. Here too, as in split, merger of the political party is the pre-condition to seek exemption from disqualification. One thing that becomes clear from an analysis of the omitted paragraph on split and the paragraph on merger is that the legislators do not have the freedom to bring about a split or merger as they are legally restrained by the anti-defection law. It is the original political party in both cases which takes that decision.

The argument that the Speaker cannot make a roving inquiry into the split or merger is specious as the Speaker takes the decision only after ascertaining the fact of the split. The same applies to the merger. Only a merger of the original political party provides the basis for claiming protection from disqualification under paragraph four. Of course it contains another assertion – namely, the merger will be deemed to have occurred only if two-thirds of the legislators agree to such merger. This simply means that for exempting defecting legislators from disqualification, merger is taken into account only if two-thirds of legislators have agreed to it. A merger of parties can take place outside the legislature but it has no consequence unless two-thirds of the members agree to it.

The crux of the Maharashtra case

In the Maharashtra case, interesting constitutional questions have arisen. The first question that should have been decided by the Court was on whose whip is valid. The whole issue could have been settled on that point. It is true that the breakaway group of the Members of the Legislative Assembly chose its own whip, who also reportedly issued whips to all the MLAs of the Shiv Sena. But the question as to whose whip is valid should have been decided on the basis of the explanation (a) to paragraph 2(1)(a), which says that an elected member of a House shall be deemed to belong to the political party by which he was set up as a candidate for election as such member. This explanation makes it unambiguously clear that the party which can legally issue the whip is the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray as this is the party which set them up as candidates in the last election. It should not be forgotten that the anti-defection law was enacted to punish defectors, not to facilitate defection.

The Supreme Court by allowing the Election Commission of India to go ahead and decide the petition under paragraph 15 of the symbols order has put the cart before the horse. The 10th Schedule is a constitutional law and the disqualification proceedings under it should have been given primacy over the proceedings under paragraph 15 of the symbols order which is a subordinate legislation. As it happened, the ECI gave a flawed order which has made the operation of the 10th Schedule irrelevant and complicated.

The propositions made in this article can be summed up as follows: legislators have no freedom under the 10th Schedule to split or bring about a merger of their party with another. Only the original party can do that and the legislators have the choice to agree or not to agree to it. A whip can be legally issued only by the original political party which set them up as candidates in the election. The Court could have settled it as the first and foremost issue which would have done complete justice to the original political party, the Shiv Sena led by Mr. Thackeray, as in the mandate of Article 142 of the Constitution.

A 'Zeitenwende' in the India-Germany relationship

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It is no secret that India's relationship with Germany has traditionally lagged behind its relations with its other European partners such as France. Benign mutual neglect coupled with Germany's primary focus on China are factors, but this appears to be changing rapidly.

Chancellor Scholz's two-day visit to India, that began on February 25, 2023, significantly coincided with the first anniversary of Russia's war on Ukraine, which has been, in Mr. Scholz's own words, a *Zeitenwende* or turning point.

Indeed, the Russian invasion has been a watershed moment in Germany's security policy, resulting in the abandonment of decades of post-war pacifism towards strategic matters. This is evident in Germany's pledge to boost defence spending to 2% of GDP and provide special funding to bolster the country's military.

Russia's war and China's assertive posturing have brought into question Germany's approach of *Wandel durch Handel* (change through trade), prompting a deep rethink of its energy and trade dependencies towards diversifying economic relations. As ties with Russia and China enter uncharted waters, Europe's increasing prioritisation of values-based partnerships with like-minded countries can advance India-German cooperation. In this context, the German government's coalition agreement in 2021 refers to relations with India among its top foreign policy priorities.

Mr. Scholz's visit has built on German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India in December 2022, and the 6th India-Germany Inter-governmental Consultations, a biannual format of engagement that commenced in 2011, to expand cooperation in defence, trade, clean energy, migration, digital transformation, and the Indo-Pacific.

His visit assumes greater importance as India holds the G-20 presidency this year and seeks to avoid geopolitics hampering cooperation in the forum. Discussions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its global repercussions were centre stage as the war continues. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated India's commitment to contribute to any peace process.

Amidst geopolitical shifts and multipolarity, New Delhi's ties with Berlin could be vital in shaping a new global order

In a departure from Germany's previous Asia policy that centred around China, Mr. Scholz first visited Japan after assuming office in 2021, and later invited Mr. Modi for the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations to Berlin. This enhanced political outreach to Asia is part of Germany's overall strategy for the Indo-Pacific region which mentions India as a key partner. For Germany, the stability of supply chains and trade routes linking Asia to Europe assumes critical importance given its status as Europe's economic powerhouse and its reliance on exports. In an interview preceding his India visit, Mr. Scholz expressed Germany's intent to enhance its strategic involvement in the region through greater military deployment. Germany's symbolic gesture of sending its frigate *Bayern* to the Indo-Pacific in 2021, with a stopover in Mumbai (January 2022), was a demonstration of this. A recent agreement on India-Germany triangular cooperation involving development projects in third countries is also an important step in this direction.

Defence links

As New Delhi attempts to diversify from its military dependence on Russia and Berlin reassesses its long-standing arms exports policy, Germany could become an important defence partner for India. The meetings included discussions around co-development of military hardware and tech transfers, and a deal worth $5.2 billion where Germany would jointly build six conventional submarines in India could be underway. Besides, the first ever France-India-Germany military exercise drill is slated to take place in 2024 towards enhanced security and defence collaboration.

Yet, it is important for the two countries to set realistic expectations in the security realm. Despite their common concerns regarding stability in the Indo-Pacific, Germany does not share a border with China, India has territorial conflicts with the country. And despite the lack of German trust in China, Mr. Scholz's visit there in November 2022 demonstrated how intertwined German industry is with Chinese markets. But even while Mr. Scholz emphasises the difficulties in 'decoupling' from China, it is encouraging that Germany is drafting a new official China strategy amidst a wider national security strategy.

India and Germany also cooperate in multilateral forums, as part of the G-4 grouping pushing for United Nations Security Council reform, and as evident in Germany's invitation to Mr. Modi to attend last year's G-7 summit.

Trade and technologies

Germany is India's largest economic partner in the European Union (EU). Thus, trade naturally figured high on the agenda boosted by the relaunch of the India-EU free-trade agreement negotiations where the Chancellor, travelling with his high-powered business delegation, stated he would "get personally involved". Collaboration in clean energy and green technologies has emerged as the central pillar in the partnership, with the launch of a Green and Sustainable Development Partnership last year and cooperation in the area of green hydrogen. The subject of mobility and migration was also under focus given Germany's shortages of skilled manpower; where technically skilled Indians could help plug this gap.

While economics comprises the bulk of the partnership, it is refreshing to witness relations steadily evolve into a more wholesome partnership. Divergent positions on the war have not undermined India's regular political engagements with Europe and convergence in areas such as the Indo-Pacific that are cementing the strategic dimension of the partnership. An intensification of the Russia-China axis could further embolden this alignment.

Against the backdrop of volatile geopolitical shifts, emerging multipolarity, and Europe's enhanced courtship of India, India's ties with Germany could be vital in shaping a new global order.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ayurvedic doctor

While I empathise with what the writer has presented, I believe there are opportunities for Ayurvedic practitioners to flourish (Editorial page, March 6). Ayurveda is renowned for recognising the need to maintain positive health. Ayurvedic practitioners are likely to be able to differentiate themselves and offer value with a focus on the "healthy man's regimen".

There must be modernised versions of rejuvenation programmes.

Ram Ramakrishnan,
Chennai

Growth of knowledge in any subject comes with new and updated research, proactive education, and utilisation of this knowledge with good professional practice.

In the case of traditional knowledge systems such as Ayurveda, efforts should be made to tap new knowledge. The age-old belief that Ayurveda is eternally perfect science could have done harm.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Air passenger behaviour

It was nauseating to read the report about another case of utterly despicable air passenger behaviour (Page 1, "Indian man urinates on co-traveller on New York-Delhi flight", March 6). That such obnoxious episodes are taking place in quick succession shows that the Aviation Ministry has neither learnt a lesson nor put in place a system to avoid the recurrence of such sickening incidents. The safety, security and welfare of passengers and the crew must be guaranteed. People do not ask for the CBI or ED or the IT to be pressed into action. A thorough and proper investigation ought to have been conducted immediately. The government must understand that lapses of this nature will also amount to maligning the country's image.

Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

One feels utterly disgusted and upset after reading such a report. Will airlines take steps to assure passengers that their seats are clean and not urine soaked or stained? To even think about such a soiled seat makes one's skin crawl.

Codanda P. Medappa,
Bengaluru

On her terms

Sania Mirza will be regarded as India's greatest woman tennis player.

One hopes that she will inspire a new generation of girl players.

P. Victor Selvaraj,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

How to become a green hydrogen superpower

The 2023 Union Budget has allocated ₹19,700 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. This will set in motion a programme that can position India as a green hydrogen (super)power. Why is this important and what will it take?

India has committed to 50% electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. But an energy transition in industry is needed at the same time. Most industrial greenhouse gas emissions in India come from steel, cement, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

Green hydrogen holds the promise of fuelling industrial growth while simultaneously reducing industrial emissions. Splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen is energy-intensive. When this energy comes from renewable/non-fossil sources, we get green hydrogen. It can serve as an energy source (heavy industry, long-distance mobility, aviation, and power storage) and an energy carrier (as green ammonia or blended with natural gas).

India is targeting at least five million tonnes of production by 2030, which is larger than that of any single economy. This would create demand for 100-125 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy, 60-100 GW of electrolysers, investment opportunity of ₹8 lakh crore, and cut 50 MMT of annual emissions. With abundant sunshine and significant wind energy resources, India is geographically blessed to become one of the lowest-cost producers of green hydrogen.

Arunabha Ghosh

is CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water. Follow @GhoshArunabha @CEEWIndia

Five priorities

For the vision to convert into reality, government and industry must act in sync along five priorities. First, domestic demand is critical. If we are not a big player domestically, we cannot be a major player in the international market. The mission introduces a Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) fund for five years, with ₹13,000 crore as direct support to consume green hydrogen. This will encourage heavy industries to increase demand, offering economies of scale by which suppliers can reduce prices.

Blending mandates for refineries can be another demand trigger. Urea plants have been exempted. Over time, targets can be ratcheted up with blending mandates rising (including for urea fertilizers). Another approach is to leverage government procurement. As the second-largest steel producer in the world, can India aspire to become the largest green steel producer? Costs of green steel, made from green hydrogen, are currently much higher, but could be reduced with economies of scale and changes in production technologies. A share of government procurement of steel could be nudged towards green steel. India could later position itself as a green steel exporter.

Second, India can be an attractive destination for domestic and foreign investment. Green hydrogen production projects announced/underway in India are far fewer compared to others. Green hydrogen is difficult and expensive to transport. The mission envisions green hydrogen hubs to consolidate production, end use and exports. A mission secretariat can ensure project clearance is streamlined and reduce financial risks.

Third, the SIGHT fund offers ₹4,500 crore to support electrolyser manufacturing under the performance-linked incentive scheme. Currently, manufacturers are importing stacks and assembling them. We must become more competitive – with targeted public funding – in manufacturing the most critical and high-value components of electrolysers in India. Not targeting value addition would result in electrolyser technologies and production again getting concentrated. China could end up controlling 38% of electrolyser capacity by 2030. Electrolyser technology must be improved to achieve higher efficiency goals, specific application requirements, be able to use non-freshwater, and substitute critical minerals.

Fourth, establish bilateral partnerships to develop resilient supply chains. Globally, about 63 bilateral partnerships have emerged; Germany, South Korea and Japan have the most. Using yen- or euro-denominated loans for sales to Japan or to the EU, respectively, could reduce the cost of capital and help us become export competitive.

Many bilateral deals focus on import-export but few deal with technology transfer or investments. India must cooperate with like-minded countries on trade, value chains, research and development, and standards. The mission allocates ₹400 crore for R&D, which can be leveraged to crowd in private capital into technology co-development. Indian companies should consider joint projects in countries with good renewable energy resources and cheap finance.

Finally, India must coordinate with major economies to develop rules for a global green hydrogen economy. In the absence of common global frameworks, attempts for rules and standards are being driven by collectives of private corporations rather than through structured intergovernmental processes. There are already signs of conflicting regulations and protectionist measures in major markets. These put India's ambitions at risk.

India's G20 presidency is an opportunity to craft rules for a global green hydrogen economy. These rules must address operational threats, industrial competitiveness and strategic threats. India should promote a global network on green hydrogen via which companies could collaborate. Green hydrogen will be a critical industrial fuel of the 21st century. India is well-positioned to show leadership – in our collective interest and that of the planet.

Green hydrogen will be a critical industrial fuel of the 21st century. India is well-positioned to show leadership

The BJP's dream and Kerala's reality

The BJP's prospects may have improved, but winning elections is a big challenge

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
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Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would win elections in Kerala. Interestingly, Kerala is the only non-BJP state that Mr. Modi mentioned in his victory address to party supporters following the BJP's impressive election performance in the north-eastern States. He claimed that people in Kerala are witnessing the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Congress strike alliances elsewhere while pretending to be rivals in the State.

However, the CPI(M), the Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) dismissed Mr. Modi's utterances and said that Kerala had no place for the BJP. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Prime Minister was being "overambitious." Congress leaders V.D. Satheesan and K.C. Venugopal echoed similar views, stating that the BJP would never come to power in Kerala as people "unite against fascist and feudal movements." IUML's senior leader M.K. Muneer remarked that Mr. Modi was entitled to dream, but it will be fruitless.

Despite the BJP's State leadership demonstrating elation over Mr. Modi's high expectations for the party's future in Kerala, the party's chances of success in the State remain slim. The BJP lost the only seat it had in the Kerala Assembly in the 2021 polls. Further, its vote share has remained below 13% in recent elections.

Tapping into the Christian vote bank in Kerala would be a daunting exercise for the BJP, as the party needs to address the community's concerns

and dispel their fears. Christians have been particularly wary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which has been accused of promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda, despite BJP central leaders holding dialogues with Catholic Bishops regularly and Mr. Modi meeting three Cardinals two years ago.

Muslims, who constitute a significant proportion of the population in the State, are also apprehensive. The BJP has not made a concerted effort to reach out to Muslim leaders and address their anxieties on controversial issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and the beef ban in some regions of the country, which have been criticised as anti-minority measures.

The leadership of the BJP in Kerala has also been a weak point. The State unit is plagued with issues such as infighting and leadership disputes. This has led to a loss of public confidence in the party. Electoral defeats and internal factionalism have created a sense of uncertainty among party workers and supporters. The power struggles between the two factions have played out in the media and damaged the party's reputation.

However, one factor could work in the BJP's favour, which is the perceived weakening of the Congress party in Kerala. The Congress's leaders have been constantly engaged in spats. The party is not showing any hurry in carrying out the delayed reshuffle either. The Congress has performed poorly in the last two Assembly polls. If the Congress continues with its poor performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and fails to return to power in the State after the 2026 Assembly polls, the political weather might prove to be conducive for the BJP to grow in Kerala.

Previously, the BJP made multiple attempts to poach leaders from the Congress, a strategy that it has successfully employed in other States. But this failed to yield the desired result as the Congress has strong ideological roots and a loyal base of campaigners in Kerala.

Over the years, the BJP has expanded its base beyond traditional upper caste Hindu supporters and enjoys the confidence of a significant section of Thiyya/Ezhava communities, Dalits, Other Backward Classes and tribes people, according to the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies post-poll survey of 2021. The party's prospects in Kerala may have improved since 2014, but assuming power in the State remains a Herculean task. The BJP has now set its eyes on winning at least five Lok Sabha seats from Kerala. But the State leadership has been unable to leverage the popularity of Mr. Modi to garner the support of the Hindu community. For the party to emerge as a strong political force in Kerala, its State leadership needs to focus on building a strong organisational structure and forging alliances with smaller parties and identifying and grooming local leaders who have a deep understanding of the issues that matter to the people of Kerala.

Analysing the post-pandemic Indian economy and its recovery

DATA POINT

Rohit Azad & Indranil Chowdhury

In a two-part piece, we look at the post-pandemic recovery of the Indian economy. GDP grows because demand for goods and services produced in an economy grows. There are broadly four sources from where this demand originates – household (consumption of goods and services), business (small or large business spending in building factories, offices, etc.), government (spending on social sector schemes), rest of the world (exports). A part of each of these sources is imported, which means they contribute to the GDPs of those countries from where they come. That's why imports are subtracted from the total demand to arrive at net domestic demand.

Chart 1 shows the contributions of these factors (here exports are net of imports) since the pandemic. The line shows the growth rate (y-o-y) and the bars show the contribution of each of these factors in achieving that growth rate. There are two significant upward movements in the growth rate, 2021-22Q1 and 2022-23Q1, the first one with a greater role of investment and the second with both consumption and investment. We look at the role that households and business may have played in the recovery in this piece.

Chart 2 shows the role that consumption and investment may have played in this recovery. Chart 2a shows that the share of consumption and GDP growth have moved in opposite directions (except in 2022-23Q1), which means that household consumption has at best played a passive role in this recovery. Chart 2b shows that investment moved concurrently with the growth rate. This means that investment has played a significant role in this recovery. Can investment (and consumption) keep playing ball? If they do not, recovery may actually be fragile.

What we consume can be financed from our current incomes as well as consumer credit we can take from a bank. Similarly, investment can be financed through the profits that firms retain for reinvestment and business credit they are awarded by banks. If these two factors have been driven by credit, state of credit may become an important factor in their sustainability in the medium run. **Chart 3** presents consumption and investment together with the total credit in the economy (all as a share of GDP). The two have moved coterminously. This means credit has played a crucial role.

Availability of credit assumes importance, particularly if there are signs of tightening. In a world of globalised finance, it is difficult for countries to have the cost of loans determined according to their own needs. So, if the U.S. Federal Reserve increases the interest rates, the RBI has to follow suit irrespective of its impact on inflation. **Chart 4** shows that the RBI had to do this. Footloose finance flows into developing countries based on the extra returns they offer, over and above what they would get in the U.S. This extra return can be seen in Chart 4 as the gap between the Fed rate and the Repo rate. If the former rises, the RBI has to increase the Repo (at least to maintain the differential); otherwise capital will fly out, which will lead to loss in value of our currency. In fact, despite this rise in Repo, capital has still flown out, which has devalued the rupee. In the absence of this rise, there would have been a greater flight and a further loss in value of rupee.

With the obsession and resurgence of inflation targeting by central banks, it is more likely that the only way the interest rates are moving, at least in the near future, is up. Rising interest rates in a fragile recovery, especially where credit has played an important role, may have a dampening effect on this growth. The role of the fiscal arm of the State, in such a situation, becomes even more critical, an issue which we will discuss in a subsequent piece.

Reasons for recovery

The charts are based on data sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Reserve Bank of India and the U.S. Federal Reserve

Chart 1

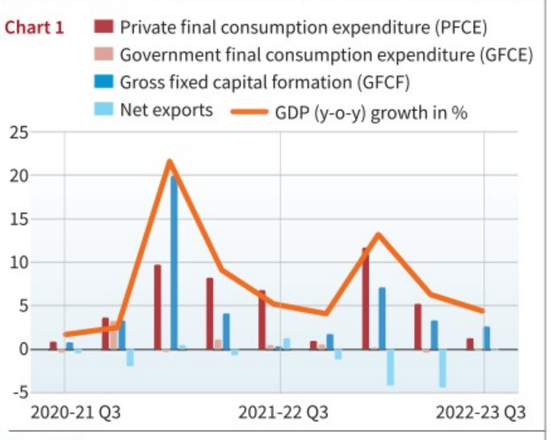


Chart 2A

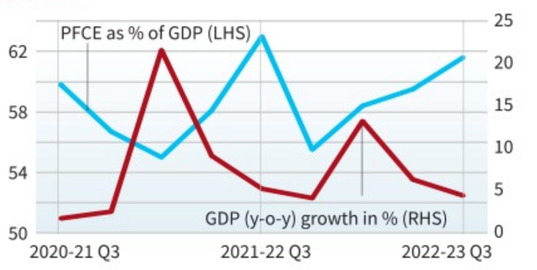


Chart 2B

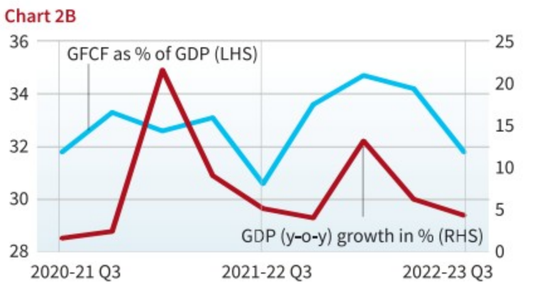


Chart 3 | The chart presents consumption and investment together with the total credit in the economy (all as a share of GDP)

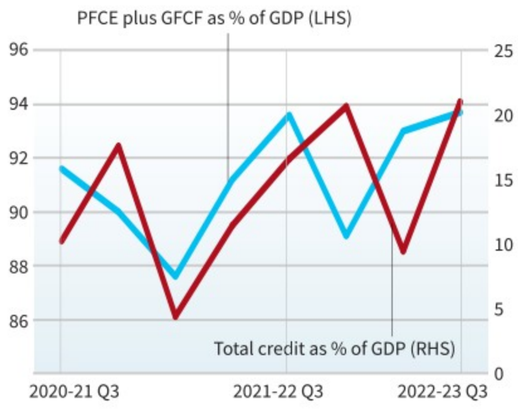
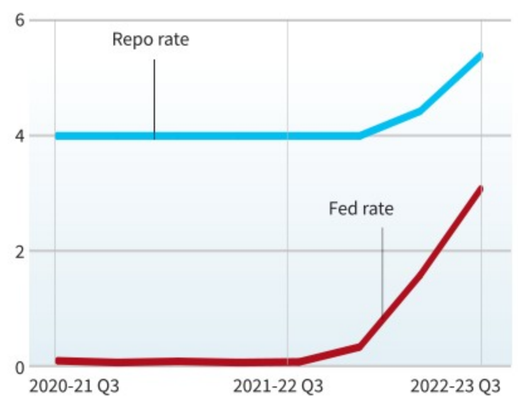


Chart 4 | If the U.S. Federal Reserve increases the interest rates to target inflation, the RBI has to follow suit irrespective of whether it impacts inflation in India or not. Chart 4 shows that the RBI had to do precisely this



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 7, 1973

Railways plan to have own thermal stations

New Delhi, March 6: The Railways may set up their own thermal power stations in certain areas to keep trains moving on electric traction, unhampered by the general power shortage in the country. This was indicated by the Deputy Railway Minister, Mr. Mohd Shafi Qureshi, while intervening on the inconclusive debate on the Railway budget in the Rajya Sabha to-day. He said trunk routes like Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay would receive priority in the electrification programme of the Railways. Eighty five percent of the work on the New Delhi-Howrah route had been completed. Mr. Qureshi disclosed that the Railways had accepted most of the recommendations of the Miabhoy Tribunal and "orders are being issued immediately" for the upgradation of the posts of guards and drivers and revision of pay scales of keymen and gangmates.

Mr. Qureshi disclosed that the Railways had accepted most of the recommendations of the Miabhoy Tribunal and "orders are being issued immediately" for the upgradation of the posts of guards and drivers and revision of pay scales of keymen and gangmates. Orders of the other recommendations, including special pay to foremen in workshops and night-duty allowance to certain categories of staff would be issued shortly.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 7, 1923

Title of world's championship

London, March 5: At the extraordinary general meeting of the Lawn Tennis Association today over which Lord Desborough presided, consideration was given to the question of title of world's championship which hitherto had always been granted at Wimbledon meetings. Lord Desborough said that, so long as one country had the world's championship allotted to it in perpetuity, America found difficulty in joining the Federation and would not send an official team to Wimbledon. Unanimously the meeting passed a resolution saying the title of the world champion should be abolished in the case of hard grass and covered courts on and after 1st January 1924 and handed over the right to make or amend laws to the International Rules Board.

From Page One

BJP picks Manik Saha again in Tripura

BJP president J.P. Nadda and Chief Ministers of several BJP-ruled States are expected at the swearing-in. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to the northeast from Tuesday, during which he will attend the oath-taking ceremonies of new governments in three States.

Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said on Monday said the Prime Minister will arrive at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here at 10 a.m. on Tuesday and will fly to Meghalaya directly from there. After attending the swearing-in ceremony in Shillong, he will leave for Kohima and will be present at the oath-taking programme of the new Nagaland government, Mr. Mahanta said. He said the Prime Minister will return to Guwahati airport at 5 p.m. on Tuesday and meet the Assam Cabinet at the State Guest House at 6.45 p.m. The Prime Minister will fly out to Agartala at 9.40 a.m. on Wednesday to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Manik Saha government and return to New Delhi from there, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

CPI(M) calls for protests amid fresh violence

While Opposition parties blamed police for inaction and allowing the perpetrators go scot-free, the police claimed that they have made over 100 arrests. "Fifty-seven people were detained in Sepahijala district", a police statement read. Nabendu Bhattacharjee, BJP State spokesperson, said the condition of BJP Janajati Morcha's Unakoti district president Purna Mohan Debbarma is critical.

On Monday, CPI(M)'s Polit Bureau said that all across the State, a large number of violent attacks, including destruction of homes and properties of its supporters, are taking place. Strongly condemning the "savage post-poll violence", the party said, "Unwilling to accept that they won a wafer-thin majority losing over 10% of vote share and the coalition losing 11 of its seats, the BJP is mounting such orgy of violence." So far, the party added, three lives were lost in these incidents.

'Cows killed'

The All India Kisan Sabha said the purpose of the attacks by the BJP is destroying the livelihood of political opponents and creating an atmosphere of terror. "Crops were fully destroyed. The BJP did not spare even cows. Cattle were burnt alive along with the sheds. These attacks started just after the results. Till March 5, 668 such incidents of violence were reported from Tripura," the AIKS said.

A joint Congress-Left delegation met Director-General of Police Amitabha Ranjan on Monday and sought his intervention. "The attacks are going unchecked, police are silent and not taking action against the perpetrators," State Left Front convener Narayan Kar told presspersons after meeting the DGP.

Conrad and Rio to take charge today

"We have decided to call ourselves the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance 2.0 since the partners are the same. We also decided that the Chief Minister will be the chairman of the alliance," he said. "Out of the 12 Cabinet berths we can have, eight will be for the NPP, two for the UDP and one each for the BJP and the HSPDP," Mr. Sangma said. The berths have been distributed equitably between the State's two major regions. "Eight Ministers will be from the Khasi-Jaintia Hills and four, including the CM, will be from the Garo Hills," he said. Mr. Sangma said the NPP leadership had proposed a name for the Speaker. Earlier in the day, Mr. Sangma handed over the letter of support from the UDP and the PDF to Governor Phagu Chauhan.

In Nagaland, apart from the NDPP and the BJP, which won a total of 37 seats, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won seven, the NPP five, the NPF, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and the Republican Party of India (Athawale) two each, and the Janata Dal(U) one. There are four Independents. Nagaland has not had so many parties bagging Assembly seats before.

The NDPP and the BJP elected Neiphiu Rio and Yanthungo Patton as their legislature party leaders respectively. The former would be the Chief Minister for the fifth time. The swearing-in of the new government is scheduled on March 7.

Land-for-job scam: CBI questions Rabri Devi

The CBI had already filed the chargesheet in the case, and a special court has summoned Ms. Devi, Mr. Prasad, their elder daughter Misa Bharti, MP, for March 15. The first information report was filed in May 2022 and their residences were searched then and in August that year. As Railway Minister from 2004 to 2009, Mr. Prasad allegedly took land in lieu of jobs in the Railways Group-D services from several people. Leaders of the ruling grand alliance in the State condemned Ms. Devi's questioning. Some RJD leaders and workers sat in a dharna outside her official residence and shouted slogans against the CBI and the Centre. JD(U) leader K.C. Tyagi slammed the Union government for Ms. Devi's questioning.

Umesh Pal murder case accused killed in encounter

Press Trust of India
PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

The man who fired the first shot at Umesh Pal, a key witness in the killing of former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) legislator Raju Pal, was gunned down in an encounter with Prayagraj police early on Monday, officials said.

Vijay Chaudhary, alias Usman, suffered bullet injuries in his neck, chest and thigh during the encounter, the police said. The encounter took place between Gothi and Belwa around 5.30 a.m., Dhoomanganj Station House Officer Rajesh Kumar Maurya said. Usman's wife Suhani has accused the police of killing him in a "fake encounter" after picking him up earlier on Monday.

A constable, Narendra Pal, also suffered injuries to his hand during the encounter, Additional Director General, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar told reporters.

The police said the gang members of the gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed, the main accused in the 2005 Raju Pal murder case, gave Vijay Chaudhary his second name "Usman".

A video of the killing of Umesh Pal in broad daylight had gone viral on social media and raised questions about the law and order in the State.

Mr. Kumar said Usman carried a reward of ₹50,000 for his arrest and that a .32 bore pistol and cartridges were recovered from him.

Keep constant vigil along borders, entire coastline: Rajnath

Constantly evolving world order has forced everyone to re-strategise, says Defence Minister at Naval Commanders' Conference on *INS Vikrant*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ready for challenges: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on board INS Vikrant on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Future conflicts will be unpredictable and the constantly evolving world order has forced everyone to re-strategise, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, addressing the Naval Commanders' Conference, being held at sea on board the indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*. This is the first time that the conference is being held outside Delhi.

"The Navy standing firm in protecting national interests has strengthened India's position as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean region," Mr. Singh said. "Constant vigil on the northern and western borders as well as the entire coastline must be maintained. We need to be ready to deal with all future challenges."

The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior government functionaries through an institutionalised forum, the Navy said in a statement. This is the first edition of the conference this year.

Military modernisation

Talking of military modernisation and the emphasis on self-reliance, Mr. Singh said the defence sector had emerged as a major demand creator. "In the next five to 10 years, orders worth over $100 billion are expected to be placed through the defence sector and it will become a major partner in the economic development of the country... If we want to see India among the top economic powers of the world by the end of *Amrit Kaal*, we need to take bold steps towards becoming a defence superpower," he said.

Mr. Singh later witnessed operational demonstrations which included aircraft carrier and fleet operations, weapon firings by ships and aircraft, and underway replenishment at sea. In addition, a demonstration of indigenous products, including spotter drone, remote-controlled lifebuoy and fire-fighting bot, was held.

The Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force would also interact with the Naval Commanders on subsequent days to address the convergence of the three services vis-à-vis common operational environment, and avenues of augmenting tri-service synergy and readiness, the Navy said.

During the conference, Naval Commanders would also be provided with an update on the 'Agnipath Scheme', the Navy said. The first batch of Agniveers is scheduled to pass out from *INS Chilka* in March-end.

INS Vikrant, which was commissioned last September, is currently undergoing aviation trials and is expected to be operationally ready by year-end.

Congress questions link between Chinese national, Adani Group

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

The Congress on Monday alleged that a Chinese national played a "dubious role" in the Adani Group's activities and asked the government if it was not concerned that the conglomerate may be involving that person in important defence contracts.

Posing a set of three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the party's "*Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun*" series, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said his queries related to the "dubious role" played in the Adani Group's activities by the Chinese national Chang Chung-Ling.

"As we pointed out on February 4, Chang Chung-Ling is alleged to be involved in activities such as smuggling petroleum products to North Korea in violation of UN sanctions. Chang's Adani links are extremely close: in 2005, he declared the same residential address in Singapore as Vinod Adani and his Singapore-based firm Gudami International was named by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in its investigation into the Adani Group's diamond trading scam in 2013," he claimed.

Reportedly, Gudami was named in the first Enforcement Directorate (ED) chargesheet against the prime accused in the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter scam Gautam Khaitan in 2014 and in a supplementary chargesheet against the co-accused Rajiv Saxena in 2017, he alleged. "Yet the firm's name mysteriously disappeared from the third ED charge sheet in 2018," he said.

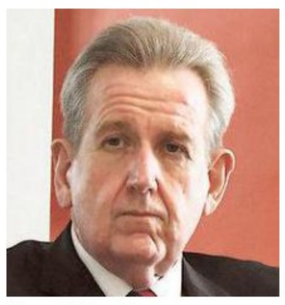
In his statement addressed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramesh questioned the alleged "clean chit to the Adanis' close colleague" in the AgustaWestland scam.

"Is this why the investigation has lingered for so many years? Are you not concerned that the Adanis may be involving a Chinese national in important defence contracts?" Mr. Ramesh said in his statement which was part of a sub-series on the allegations against Mr. Adani – "*Dikh Raha Hai Vinod*".

As part of another poser, Mr. Ramesh claimed that shortly after allegations of corruption appeared, the United Progressive Alliance government took proactive action against AgustaWestland's parent company Finmeccanica (later Leonardo), but on November 14, 2021, the government abruptly lifted the ban on the firm. It asked why the ban was lifted on a company accused of corruption when the case was still pending.

Australia, India in talks to upgrade trade pact: High Commissioner

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI



Barry O'Farrell

The recent acts of vandalism targeting Hindu temples in Melbourne and Brisbane have "horrified" the citizens of his country, High Commissioner of Australia Barry O'Farrell said on Monday.

Setting the stage for the March 8 to 11 visit of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Mr. O'Farrell promised justice in the cases of vandalism. He said the big-ticket visit from Australia would provide a boost to the bilateral ties as both governments were in talks to upgrade the interim trade agreement.

"Australians are horrified of any vandalism of religious places of worship and police are very active to track down those who are responsible. Australia is a successful multicultural, multi-faith country. It respects freedom of speech but freedom of speech does not give you right to engage in violent protest, hate speech or vandalism," Mr. O'Farrell told the media.

Mr. O'Farrell indicated that during Mr. Albanese's visit, the two sides would try to give shape to elements that would deliver positive results to the broader relationship in the coming years. In this context, he said the two sides were in talks to upgrade the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) to the level of a "full Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement".

The ECTA, an interim trade pact, was signed last year. Mr. Albanese had announced his visit to India on December 29, 2022, when the agreement came into force. It was understood back then that the two sides would use the interim deal as a stepping stone for a "full-scale" free trade pact.

Don Farrell, Australian Trade and Tourism Minister who will be part of the PM's delegation, is expected to meet his Indian counterpart, Piyush Goyal. The visiting leader will also be accompanied by Madeleine King, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia.

Quad relations

The visit of Mr. Albanese is also being viewed as a push for a closer relation among the member countries of the Quad – Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

Mr. O'Farrell was cautious and said the Quad was not going to acquire a security or military shape in the months to come because of the Ukraine conflict and the tension in the Indo-Pacific region. "Our relationship with any country should not be at the cost of another country. Quad will not be an Indo-Pacific NATO," he said.

He nevertheless said that India and Australia have a "strategic defence relationship" which got closer as "strategic competition increased" across the Indo-Pacific region.

Dalit student death: IIT-B panel says no casteism, poor grades 'strong reason'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Twenty days after the death of an 18-year-old Dalit student, Darshan Solanki, at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, the administration's internal investigation has ruled out caste-based discrimination, and concluded that it appeared to be a "tragic" case of suicide, in an interim report tabled to the authorities on March 2.

The committee noted that his grades had deteriorated in the second half of the Autumn semester and that "the despair of deteriorating academic performance appears to be a very strong reason which might have affected DS [Darshan] very seriously".

Language barrier

The committee concluded that he might have felt aloof because of "JEE rank differences, computer familiarity, and language barrier".

Further, Darshan's sister told the committee that he would often complain about being laughed at for asking questions about computers or other subjects.

She said that he had also spoken of issues faced by other SC/ST students that he too was facing.

The committee recorded that one of Darshan's friends, an SC/ST student, said he was "sensitive about his caste identity".

In addition, informal student bodies such as the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle and others also deposed before the panel, and presented a slew of issues related to regular caste-based discrimination on campus.

However, the institute said, "None of those interviewed/interacted persons... mentioned about any kind of discrimination [including caste-based], either reported by DS himself or by any of his friends." The panel added that three SC/ST students it spoke to said they had not faced caste discrimination on campus.

The institute said that none of the above-mentioned student body members had personally met Darshan, or "directly knew" of problems faced by him. "Therefore, other than the statement of DS's sister, there is no specific evidence of caste-based discrimination faced by DS," it said.

Rushikulya sands teem with Olive Ridleys

Beach in Odisha's Ganjam witnesses a record mass nesting of 6.37 lakh turtles this year; absence of extreme weather events made conditions favourable, says official; tagging of the turtles continues

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESHWAR

Golden period: Olive Ridley turtles coming ashore at Rushikulya in Ganjam district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Nearly 6.37 lakh Olive Ridley turtles have arrived for mass nesting on the Rushikulya coast this year, setting a new record for the beach in Ganjam district of Odisha.

The arrival of the turtles for laying eggs from February 23 to March 2 – which is treated as the mass nesting period – was attributed to the emergence of new beaches near the Podampetta area, Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer Sunny Khokkar said.

Mr. Khokkar said, this year, the beaches remained unaffected as there were no extreme weather events such as cyclone and heavy rain and the turtles ascended the perfectly sloped beaches at the Rushikulya river mouth. Last year, 5.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles came to Rushikulya for mass nesting.

"The actual number of Olive Ridleys coming to Rushikulya will go up as turtles keep coming to the coast after March 2. We are currently counting the number of turtles received during sporadic nesting witnessed after March 2," he said. The forest division has stepped up supervision to prevent turtle mortality by deploying more officials.

Turtles also arrive at Gahirmatha beach in Kendrapara district, which is known as the world's largest known rookery. Puri and Devi river mouth beaches too host Olive Ridley turtles this time around.

As part of a long-term study, researchers of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) continued tagging of Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha, Devi river mouth and Rushikulya. "This year, we propose to tag 3,200 turtles. It is heartening to note that 150 Olive Ridley turtles which were tagged have returned to lay eggs on beaches of Odisha this year," ZSI scientist Anil Mohapatra said.

Dr. Mohapatra said two turtles tagged in Odisha were spotted in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu.

Congress slams BJP for tying up with NPP after calling it 'most corrupt'

Jairam Ramesh flags BJP's 'fit of amnesia', says the party's 'washing machine is running in full speed' as it joins hands with Conrad Sangma after accusing his government of graft prior to polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the National People's Party (NPP)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government takes oath in Meghalaya, the Congress recalled how Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had called the Conrad Sangma-led government the most corrupt in the country.

Taking a dig at the BJP's "fit of amnesia", Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said that the BJP's "washing machine is running in full speed".

"A few days back, Conrad Sangma's government in Meghalaya was the MOST corrupt in the country according to both PM & HM. Now of course, BJP in a fit of amnesia I suppose, is joining hands with him. Meghalaya deserves better," Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

New innings: Meghalaya Governor Phagu Chauhan receives the letter of support from NPP leader Conrad Sangma on Monday. PTI

"I should have added that BJP Washing Machine is now running full speed," he said in another tweet.

Mr. Ramesh shared two videos: one that showed the Prime Minister accusing the Sangma-led Meghalaya government of corruption at an election rally, while the second one had Mr. Shah making the same charge at another rally.

Addressing a joint press conference with spokesperson Supriya Shrinate at the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief and Lok Sabha member Vincent Pala accused the BJP of "cheating" the people of his State.

"The honourable Prime Minister has come to Meghalaya, the honourable Home Minister, the President of the BJP... all of them abused and accused the NPP. But, after the results, when the BJP got only two out of 60 seats, then the next day they joined hands together," Mr. Pala told presspersons.

"The honourable Prime Minister is coming tomorrow and all other BJP leaders to just market that they are getting a government in Meghalaya. This is how they betray the people of the State," Mr. Pala added.

Ms. Shrinate said the alliance with the NPP revealed the "true character" of the BJP.

"No less than BJP president J.P. Nadda talked of setting up a probe into the corruption charges by a former Supreme Court judge. Then they join hands after results. If this is not hypocrisy, then what is?" she said.

Uncertainty over release of MGNREGS funds for Bengal as tussle with Centre goes on

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are likely to be withheld for West Bengal in the upcoming financial year, with no resolution to the tussle between the State and the Centre over the violation of rules in the implementation of the scheme.

Invoking Section 27 of the MGNREG Act, the Centre has been withholding funds for the State since December 2021.

West Bengal is the only State in the country against which this section was invoked. The Centre owes ₹7,500 crore out of which the labour wages amount to ₹2,744 crore.

Section 27 of the Act says, "[T]he Central Government may, on receipt of any complaint regarding the issue or improper utilisation of funds granted under this act in respect of any scheme if *prima facie* satisfied that there is a case, cause an investigation into the complaint made by any agency designated by it and if necessary, order stoppage of release of funds to the scheme".

Perennial wait: The Centre owes ₹7,500 crore to West Bengal out of which the labour wages amount to ₹2,744 crore. FILE PHOTO

Multiple warnings

The section, however, also states that "appropriate remedial measures for its proper implementation within a reasonable period of time" has to be taken.

Officials at the Union Ministry of Rural Development said that the Section was invoked only after three years and several warnings by the Centre, which the State ignored.

The State submitted an action-taken report in September last year, which the Union Ministry returned to the State government seeking further clarification. The State again sent a revised reply in December last year.

So far, the Centre has neither asked for additional clarifications nor has it accepted the State's report disposing of the issue.

Sources said that as part of the series of meetings that the Union Ministry has been holding with the State governments, the West Bengal administration had been called on March 13 to present its demand for the next financial year. "The reply filed by the State government in December is only partially satisfactory. We cannot give them a clean chit just yet," a senior official said.

Workers in peril

The West Bengal administration, meanwhile, is hoping that the issue would be resolved at the earliest.

Each year, 10% of the total MGNREGS budget is allotted to West Bengal.

Last week, MGNREGS workers from the State, many of whom have not been paid for more than 15 to 18 months, took part in the 100-day dharna being organised by the NREGA Sangarsh Morcha at the Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

Even if there were violations, no official of the State government, which is the implementing authority, has been punished or held accountable; instead, it is the workers who have to suffer wage loss, an activist and one of the key architects of the act, said at a press conference recently in Delhi.

Colonies of displaced PoK residents to be regularised

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to regularise the colonies populated by refugees from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), who were granted citizenship and equal voting rights in 2019.

"Displaced families of PoK have suffered a lot. Prime Minister Narendra Modi*ji* understood their sufferings and made arrangements for their financial support and settlement, and access to social security. Steps will be taken to regularise the colonies of displaced families," J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said, while inaugurating a special governance camp for displaced persons from PoK in Jammu. He described PoK as an integral part of India. "Commitment made in Parliament will soon be fulfilled by the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Amarnath," he said.

Mr. Sinha said that on August 5, 2019, Mr. Modi had ended the decades-long injustice and provided equal opportunities to the Valmiki, Gorkha and Safai Karamcharis communities, and displaced persons.

According to official figures, 36,384 families, who were displaced from PoK and Chhamb in 1947, are settled in J&K. Mr. Sinha said the government would construct Smriti Bhawan in the memory of the martyrs of PoK.

Court sends Sisodia to judicial custody till March 20 in Delhi excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia will be lodged in Tihar jail in the national capital after a Delhi court remanded him in judicial custody till March 20 in connection with the excise policy case, according to officials.

On Monday, Mr. Sisodia was produced before special judge M.K. Nagpal on the expiry of his seven-day custodial interrogation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI told the court that it did not require the custody of Mr. Sisodia for now.

No respite: Manish Sisodia being produced at a court in New Delhi in connection with the Delhi excise policy case on Monday. PTI

According to Tihar jail PRO, Mr. Sisodia will be lodged in jail number 1.

The court will hear his bail plea on March 10.

The political firestorm over Mr. Sisodia's arrest refused to die down with the AAP alleging that by not requesting custody of Mr. Sisodia, the CBI had shown that it lacked any evidence against him. Senior AAP leader Atishi said, "This (not requesting for custody) was because the agency has no concrete proof and their only strategy was to coerce him into signing a false confession within seven days of police custody."

BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Not only the BJP, but the people of Delhi are also demanding that Kejriwal who is immersed in corruption should resign. *Holika Dahan* of AAP leaders who have become symbols of liquor scam and corruption is necessary for the development of Delhi."

Cong. flays questioning of Rabri, alleges misuse of CBI by the Centre

Congress also says the charges in the Delhi excise policy case are serious and need to be probed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

While terming the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) questioning of former Bihar Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Rabri Devi as "misuse" of a Central agency, the Congress on Monday asserted that the charges in the Delhi excise policy casea were serious and need to be probed.

The Congress's assertion came on a day a court sent former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was in charge of the excise policy, to judicial custody until March 20. On Sunday, nine Opposition leaders, including four Chief Ministers, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling Mr. Sisodia's arrest a "witchunt".

Asked if the Congress was "confused" about its stance *vis-à-vis* the alleged "misuse" of Central agencies, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate told reporters there was no dilemma in the party. "We are not at all confused. Our stand is clear. We condemn the CBI raid at Rabri Devi's residence," she said.

"Our stand... is clear that the agencies are misused to target the Opposition. But... it is the truth that the Delhi liquor policy was being formulated at a time Delhi was gasping for breath during the pandemic. If this policy had not been withdrawn, there would have been a liquor store under every house, in complete disregard of women's security. So, how will questions not arise? Questions will also be raised because when these agencies act against other Opposition leaders, be it our leaders, those in Bihar or Maharashtra, the Aam Aadmi Party does not utter a word," Ms. Shrinate said.

Priyanka backs Rabri

Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had come out in support of the former Bihar Chief Minister and said those Opposition leaders who were not ready to bow before the BJP were being "harassed" through the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI.

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
No.19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008. Phone - +91-4428554479, 28554480
Fax : +91-4428553729 Website : www.tidco.com

Tender Ref. No TIDCO/TNDIC/SIP-Tuticorin/2023 Date:07.03.2023

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO), a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise involved in establishing and facilitating the large and medium Industries to stimulate industrial development. TIDCO is the nodal agency for the implementation of TamilNadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the state.

TIDCO envisages setting up of Space Industrial Park and Propellants Park near Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, to enable industries in Tamil Nadu to tap into the global & domestic Space and A&D market.

In this context, TIDCO invites "RFP for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Feasibility Report for setting up of Space Industrial Park and Propellants Park near Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu". TIDCO invites interested firms to submit proposals for undertaking the services described in the Tender document.

Interested firms can download the Tender from the website **www.tidco.com, www.tndefencecorridor.in** and **https://tenders.tn.gov.in.** The Terms of Reference, Qualification Criteria and other terms and conditions are provided in the Tender Document.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **3:00 P.M** on **16.03.2023** in TIDCO Office/ online VC.
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals / Bids is on or before **3:00 P.M** on **07.04.2023** through hardcopy submission.
3. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at **3.30 P.M** on **07.04.2023** at TIDCO Office.

Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road,
Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com Website: www.tidco.com

DIPR/1469/TENDER/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education., Govt. of India)
Karakambadi Road, Tirupati - 517507

Admission to Ph.D. Program, August 2023

IISER Tirupati **(www.iisertirupati.ac.in)** invites online applications for admission to the Ph.D. programs in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Earth and Climate Sciences for the August 2023 Session. For details of educational qualifications, eligibility criteria, selection procedure, online application, and last date of submission, please visit: **http://www.iisertirupati.ac.in/admissions/phd/**

Advt. No.12/2023/IISER-T/Admissions/03-03-2023 Sd/- **Director**

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

An unknown male of about 55 years old, hit by a train, found dead at the railway track towards the western side of Chemmanmukku Over bridge on 20.10.2022. In this connection a Case Crime No. 1087/2022 u/s174 Crpc was registered at Kollam East Police Station.

Identification Marks: 151 cm height, Whitish skin tone.

If any information about this person, please inform to the below mentioned phone numbers.

ACP Kollam City, Phone No. 9497990025
ISHO Kollam East PS, Phone No. 9497987030
SI Kollam East PS, Phone No. 9497980175
Kollam East Police Station, Phone No. 04742742072
RO/00570/f2/2023/I&PRD

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

An unknown male of about 50 years old was found at Kollam Beach on 13.01.2023, 18.30 hrs. and died while undergoing treatment at Parappally Medical college. In this matter a Case under Crime No. 113/2023 u/s174 Crpc was registered at Kollam East Police Station.

Identification Marks: 156 cm height, Black Colour. If any information obtained regarding the above person, please inform to the below mentioned phone numbers.

ACP Kollam City, Phone No. 9497990025
ISHO Kollam East PS, Phone No. 9497987030
SI Kollam East PS, Phone No. 9497980175
Kollam East Police Station, Phone No. 04742742072
RO/00567/f2/2023/I&PRD

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
NOTIFICATION No.03/2023-RC dated 07.03.2023

Applications are invited for Recruitment to **30 Posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division)** in the A.P. State Judicial Service, comprising of **24 vacancies to be filled under Direct Recruitment** and **06 vacancies to be filled under Recruitment by Transfer.** The recruitment process shall be governed by the Andhra Pradesh State Judicial (Service & Cadre) Rules, 2007. The detailed notification has been placed on the official website. Online application and general instructions/guidelines will be available from **17-03-2023** on the official website of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh **http://hc.ap.nic.in.** The Last date for submission of Online Application is **06-04-2023 upto 11.59 PM.**

Important dates

1. Starting date for submission of online Application: **17-03-2023**
2. Closing date for submission of online Application: **06-04-2023 upto 11.59 PM**
3. Date of Screening Test (Computer based test): **24-04-2023.**

Note:- No other mode of application will be entertained.

Amaravati,
Dated 07.03.2023
DIPR 8025/CL, Dt.06-03-2023

Sd/-
Registrar (Recruitment)

KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CORPORATION OFFICE, PB.No.1016
ERNAKULAM, KOCHI-682011
ISO/MOE4/42191/22 06.03.2023

A. Notice inviting Expression of Interest - WINDOW NO-C-193704/2023.
Kochi Municipal Corporation is seeking a qualified partner to supply one number of Robotic Multipurpose Excavator on rental basis for a period of 120 days including Operation & Maintenance of the equipment.

B. Notice inviting e-Tenders
WINDOW NO. C-193706/2023
Kochi Municipal Corporation inviting e-Tenders for supply of 1 no. of Vehicle mounted high capacity suction cum jetting machine with recycling facility with operation and maintenance contract for 5 years.
The EOI documents/Tender details can be downloaded from www.lsgkerala.gov.in, http://etender.kerala.gov.in.
Qualified firms with adequate resources, experience and track record interested in the projects are requested to submit their respective Expression of Interest (EOI)/ Tenders before **5PM on 16th March 2023**.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Kochi Municipal Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI &DD e-NIT

Executive Engineer, DPMU, PaschimMedinipur invites e-tender for Excavation of 5 nos. WDS and Installation of 10 nos. TW(S) at Different Blocks in the District of PaschimMedinipur under DPMU, PaschimMedinipur, WBADMI Project Phase-II, Bid reference nos. DPMU/ Pas.Mid/eNIT-21-22/2022-23, Tender IDs are - 2023_WRDD_487826_1, 2023_WRDD_487838_1. Last dropping date 07/04/2023 (upto 18:00 Hrs). Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http//wbtenders.gov.in for details and also Corrigendum, if any. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, DPMU, PaschimMedinipur, WBADMIP** ICA- T4891(3)/2023

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagara Division, 9th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No: EE/SN/TEND/20/2022-23 Date: 06.03.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER - (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagara Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD/Railways/MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Providing Teachers to BBMP Schools and Colleges of East Zone on Outsourced Basis.	664.71	664715

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from **09.03.2023** onwards. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **04.04.2023** at **4:00 pm**. (3) Pre Bid meeting will be held on **14.03.2023** at **3:30** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, 9th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on **05.04.2023** at **4:00** pm. (5) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagara Division

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHITTORGARH (RAJ.)
Tel No.: +91 1472 241327 Dept. Website :- www.chittorgarhmc.com
No: MCC/Nirman/2022-23/12023-28 Date :-28/02/2023

E-Notice Inviting Tender

Bids for NIT No. 27 MCC/Nirman/2022-23/12018-12022 Dated :- 28/02/2023 Are invited from interested bidders Upto 4.00 P.M. on Dated :- 22/03/2022 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state and Departmental Website on as per above.

UBN NO. DLB2223SLOB30186 **Estimated Cost: -1,22,91,000**
Raj.Samwad/C/22/15566 **President** **Commissioner**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for supply of **"20,00,000 Kgs of Cow Ghee with Agmark Special Grade through e-tenders"** from the national wide dairies for a period of 06 months to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender Notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.**

Roc.No.PR4/13952/Adv.No.417/PRO/2023, Dated:06-03-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office, Mechanical Engineering Department K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. Tele No.080-22537519
Tender No.BMTC/CO/ME/12/2022-23 Dated:07.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement mode only)

(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for supply of 20 Mini (Chikka) Electric buses. (2) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal is on **05.04.2023 at 17:30 Hours.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of changes in calendar of events, scope, other tender terms & conditions etc., will be uploaded/Published through e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for details. In case of further assistance, the bidders may contact e-procurement Help Desk for support Ph: 080-22230960 & 080-22234115 or email at **eprocurement helpdesk@gmail.com.** Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. E-mail to **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** for further information if required.

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

'Many adenovirus infection victims had co-morbidities'

Amid reports of death of children caused by adenovirus infection, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that so far 19 children had died of the infection, of which 13 had co-morbidities. The Chief Minister said that six children had died of adenovirus alone. Speaking in the State Assembly Ms. Banerjee said that after the COVID-19 pandemic, many viruses have changed their character and suggested that adults start wearing masks to protect children. In a statement on Sunday, the Trinamool government said that sufficient infrastructure had been created across the State in recent years to deal with the situation.

Three children die during illegal mining in West Bengal

Three children were crushed to death on Monday at Siliguri in West Bengal while they were allegedly loading illegally mined sand on a truck on the bed of a river. The incident happened on the bank of the Balason river in Tripalijot in the Matigara police station area. The children had gone to mine sand on the riverbed in the night and the vehicle overturned, resulting in the death of these children. One of the children, who was injured in the accident and has been admitted to hospital, said that they were promised ₹350 each to fill the truck before the Holi festivities. The children had gone to the river bed in the night and the bodies were located by the river on Monday morning.

CBI court asks ED to take Anubrata to Delhi by flight

A special CBI court in Asansol on Monday directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to take arrested Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal to Delhi by air for questioning, in accordance with an order of the Calcutta High Court. The special court judge also asked the Asansol correctional home authority to hold the medical examination of Mr. Mondal at the earliest, in coordination with the Asansol Durgapur Commissioner of Police. The court said he would be taken to Delhi by air, after jail authorities hand him over to the probe agency, following his medical examination. PTI

India reducing dependence in healthcare, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that India is consistently trying to ensure minimal dependence on foreign countries in healthcare. Addressing a post-Budget webinar on health and medical research, he said that healthcare should be viewed in the paradigm of pre- and post-COVID era. "The cashless health insurance scheme [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana] has led to the healthcare savings of nearly ₹80,000 crore for patients. Additionally, savings of ₹20,000 crore have been achieved through buying of generic medicines by patients from the Jan Aushadhi Kendras," the Prime Minister added.

Coast Guard says Iranian boat with drugs seized

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

In a joint operation, the Indian Coast Guard, based on an intelligence input by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Gujarat, seized an Iranian boat with five crew members allegedly carrying 61 kg of heroin, estimated at ₹425 crore, on Monday night.

The Coast Guard said it deployed its two Fast Patrol Class of ships, *ICGS Meera Behn* and *ICGS Abheek*, for patrolling in the Arabian Sea. "During dark hours, a boat was observed moving suspiciously in Indian waters approx. 340 kms (190 miles) off Okha coast. On being challenged by ICG Ships, the boat started evasive manoeuvring. The boat was then chased and forced to stop by ICG ships," the Coast Guard.

After interception, the boat was found to be from Iran, carrying five Iranian nationals. The Coast Guard personnel undertook an extensive search and found approximately 61 kg of narcotics worth ₹425 crore. The boat along with the crew has been apprehended and is being brought to Okha for further investigation. In the last 18 months, narcotics worth ₹2,355 crore have been seized from vessels off the Gujarat coast.

Centre gives nod for States to authenticate Aadhaar of prisoners

The exercise will be undertaken for inmates on a voluntary basis to ease extension of benefits such as health schemes, vocational training: MHA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry of Home on Monday notified that prison authorities across States are allowed to conduct authentication of prison inmates through Aadhaar for extending benefits such as meeting with relatives and legal aid. The Ministry said the exercise was voluntary. Prison is a State subject.

The Home Ministry had earlier directed prison authorities to hold camps to make Aadhaar available to all inmates. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The notification said the Ministry having been authorised by the Union government to notify, under Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020 and the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, "performance of Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates on a voluntary basis using Yes/No authentication facility, inter-alia, for delivery of various benefits/facilities to which they are entitled, such as, correctional reform measures, health, skilling, vocational training, interview with relatives, legal aid, etc.", hereby notifies that the Prisons Department of the States and Union Territories are allowed to perform Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates.

It added that prison authorities of the States shall adhere to the guidelines with respect to the use of Aadhaar authentication as laid down by the Central government.

Earlier in November 2022, the Ministry wrote to prison authorities to organise special camps to make Aadhaar available for all prisoners.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has agreed to accept the Prisoner Induction Document (PID) as a valid document for enrolment or update of Aadhaar. By enrolling prisoners to Aadhaar, various aspects of day-to-day prison administration such as production before court, return to prison, transport, health facilities, shifting to hospital outside the campus, interviews, free legal aid, parole, temporary release mechanisms, education/vocational training, release from prisons etc. could be regulated, the Ministry had said.

'Democracy being attacked in name of freedom of expression'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kiren Rijiju

Attempts are being made to 'attack' democracy in the name of freedom of expression, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Monday, delivering a keynote address at the 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference in Goa.

The Minister said that one of the success stories of democracy was a strong constitutional provision that called for clear separation of powers among the judiciary, executive and the legislature and "if any wing tries to encroach upon the territory of another, it must be fiercely resisted".

Though the Law Minister did not name anyone, his comments on democracy are being seen as a rebuttal to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech to a group of students in Cambridge University last week in which Mr. Gandhi said "the democratic architecture in India is under pressure and attack".

Mr. Rijiju shared a six-minute video clip of his address in which he said the "mandate of the people that follows the due processes of law must be respected at all cost".

"This cannot be challenged by mere campaign. I have seen in recent times that in the name of freedom of expression, attempts are being made to attack democracy itself," Mr. Rijiju said in his inaugural address.

1975 Emergency

"I can assure this august house that in India, democracy cannot be overthrown because Indians are inherently democratic. There was one attempt in 1975 when Emergency was imposed but the people of India resisted fiercely. And rule of law prevailed again and it will prevail forever," he added.

The Law Minister also said that the Narendra Modi government had so far repealed 1,486 obsolete and redundant laws and 65 more such laws would be repealed in the second part of the Budget Session.

Talking about 4.98 crore pending cases in India, Mr. Rijiju said the pendency would be handled using technology.

Railways ties up with ISRO for train tracking

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is harnessing the power of data analytics for integrated transportation. It has commenced a project which will now enable real time tracking of train movements with the assistance of satellite imagery under the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project.

D.K. Singh, Managing Director, Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), said that the CRIS has collaborated with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for live tracking to help Railways run trains efficiently.

Mr. Singh, and the Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, spoke on the sidelines of a conference on 'Reimagining Indian Railways: Harnessing the Power of Data Analytics for Integrated Transportation' here on March 3.

Mr. Singh said that ISRO has developed its own regional navigation satellite system called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) and Bhuvan, a web-based utility which allows users to explore a set of map-based content being deployed for tracking.

"We have taken bandwidth from ISRO and integrated our systems with NavIC and Bhuvan. Every locomotive is fitted with a device and a SIM, which communicates the train's real position to the satellite and feedback is received. The movement is updated every three seconds," Mr. Singh added.

Real-time tracking of trains is also useful during accidents, floods and landslips, when there is a need to pin down the train's exact location for rendering help. "Until now, 4,000 locomotives have been installed with the technology, and new locomotives that are being manufactured come pre-installed with the tracking devices," Mr. Singh said.

A total of 4,000 locomotives have been fitted with the technology, and new locomotives come with tracking devices. GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Vaishnaw emphasised the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum tech for the Indian Railways. Mr. Vaishnaw said that there was a pilot project underway between Sanchar Bhavan, which houses the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology, and Rail Bhavan, which houses the Ministry of Railways, to use quantum key encryption in order to exchange information in a way that is "non-hackable".

The Railways is tapping into data analytics to improve passenger experience, help chart out empty seats, and enable more passengers to receive confirmed tickets.

"Nearly 2.3 crore passengers travel on the Indian Railways every day, of which 30 lakh passengers travel on reserved tickets, while about two crore passengers travel via the unreserved ticketing system," Mr. Singh said.

The CRIS has now developed a hand-held device that can help reduce queues by providing tickets on platforms to unreserved passengers.

Mr. Singh said that the CRIS has identified 90 cases where AI can be used for improving Railways services, including seat allocation, prediction analysis on when freight trains will be emptied, and balancing stocks of medicines across the Railways health infrastructure.

"We crunch data and provide it to the Zonal Railways for further problem solving," Mr. Singh said.

Joshimath to be on disaster risk reduction meet agenda

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The land subsidence in Joshimath in Uttarakhand that displaced many people, and the role of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) after the Turkey earthquake, will be among the topics that will be discussed at the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) conference to be held in Delhi from March 10 to 11.

The session, whose main theme is "Building local resilience in a changing climate", will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 10.

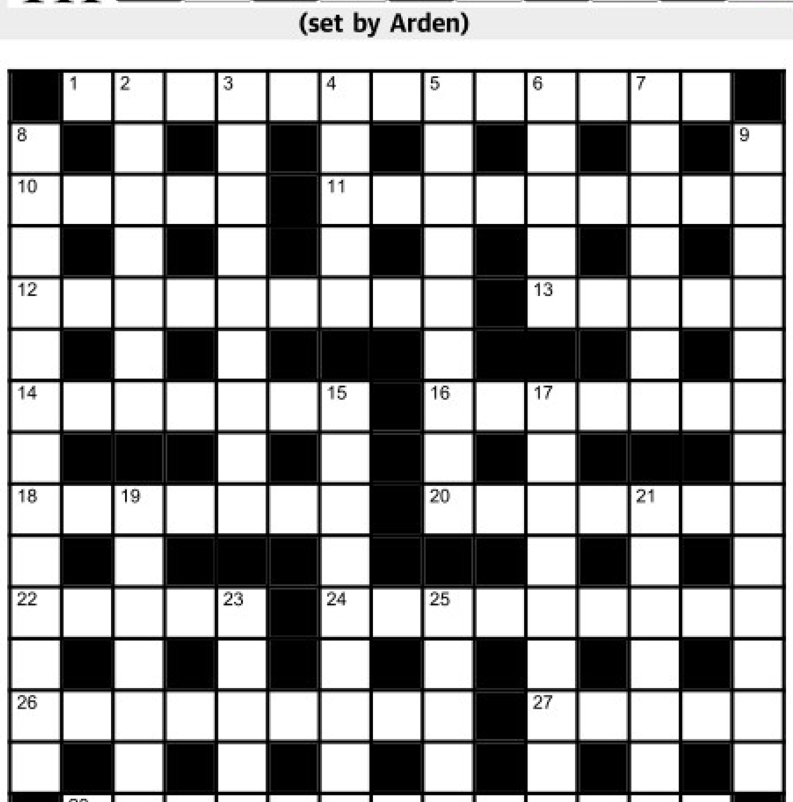
Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a session with State government Ministers.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13806

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Part of the earth then breaks into a very round shape (13)
10 Trouble to hold pressure during this time of the year (5)
11 Unclutter ground, it's hostile (9)
12 Fancy hit parade, it's no more in South Africa (9)
13 Lifting article over small distance (5)
14 Some lad mad about her (7)
16 By self admission, a post reformation kind of painting (7)
18 Mission complete - finally Arden's caught a fish (7)
20 Getting angry in other words with coolies in the Orient, extremely simple! (7)
22 Soldier carrying bag of bones (5)
24 Is salt bad? Starts using daily, ends with spring fever (9)
26 European denial wearing off (9)
27 Keen to see half put underground (5)
28 Media is into disruption, supporting one Frenchman - Monet, perhaps (13)

Down

2 About stopping a virus, millions face ridicule (7)
3 Work is toil - has to cover bad breath (9)
4 Egg on salt? (5)
5 Dependable, smart - what reporters are looking for (5,4)
6 Husband of father's sister is Harry (5)
7 Mentions about Oriental jackets (7)
8 Cut down on salt, now you're talking mayonnaise! (5,8)
9 Say to father "use the latest" (5,2,3,3)
15 Commitments to produce alloys, show hidden link (9)
17 One of the horse riders left in position, perhaps (9)
19 Spot young animal hoisting material (7)
21 Corresponds to one, at last a quest to set out (7)
23 Ruler in the same era (5)
25 Part of Egypt is in a turmoil (5)

SUDOKU

							4	
8	7				9	3		2
		3	2	6		8	7	
			8			6		1
2				4				7
1		7			2			
	5	1		2	6	7		
6		8	5				9	4
	2							

No.SS5730 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

T	H	R	U	S	T	■	E	D	E	N	T	A	T	E
E	■	I	■	P	■	D	■	R	■	E	■	C	■	R
A	B	O	R	I	G	I	N	E	■	W	A	T	E	R
C	■	T	■	D	■	E	■	S	■	E	■	R	■	A
A	L	G	I	E	R	S	■	S	A	L	I	E	N	T
D	■	U	■	R	■	E	■	I	■	■	■	S	■	A
D	E	N	I	M	■	L	E	N	I	N	I	S	T	■
Y	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	G	■	O	■	■	■	I
■	G	A	U	N	T	L	E	T	■	N	U	M	E	N
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N	■	U	■	I	■	T	■	L	■	W	■	A	■	R
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T	■	E	■	J	■	I	■	S	■	R	■	E	■	O
E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	■	A	D	O	N	I	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	6	7	9	4	1	8	3
7	8	1	2	3	5	4	9	6
4	9	3	1	8	6	5	2	7
3	2	4	9	6	1	7	5	8
1	6	8	5	7	2	3	4	9
5	7	9	3	4	8	6	1	2
8	3	7	4	5	9	2	6	1
6	4	2	8	1	3	9	7	5
9	1	5	6	2	7	8	3	4

FAITH

The importance of Vedas

Scriptures say that Vedas are the very breathing air of God. Vedas preach from beginning to end about the general well being of the society (*Lokas Samasthas sukhino bhavanthu*). It has been in practice from the days of yore, the recitation of Vedas. Hearing of Vedas purifies us. By helping the conduct of the recitation of Vedas, people derive blessings.

Not all seeds sown in the earth would sprout. The power of Vedas should be in the earth for the seeds to come up. We have been disturbing the earth in various ways and we make it even impure. People who develop angry may out of a fit of rage kick the ground which is considered a sinful one.

We have to tender excuse to the Mother earth for all these. It is said if we incur the wrath of the Mother earth, she may wreak havoc by creating fissures, earthquakes and landslides.

Not all fire could be considered as a holy one. The *homa* is reckoned as a true Agni and it is believed that on top of the flames God dwells in. Vedas also say the wind should blow gently with cool breeze and not like a tornado. The Sun God should not roast us.

The celestials in charge of day and night, lunar fortnights, the month, the seasons of the year (all *rithus*) should give comfort to us. All these are possible by chanting Vedas.

Through the five elements and faculties and through our mind, we commit several mistakes. They can be cleansed by helping for the cause of the spread of Vedas, said Brahmashree Kannan Ghanapatigal in a discourse.

TEHRAN

Violation of Islamic dress code will lead to punishment: Iran judiciary

AFP

Women violating the Islamic dress code will be punished, Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Monday according to *IRNA* news agency. "Removing one's hijab is equivalent to showing enmity to the Islamic Republic and its values. People who engage in such an act will be punished," Mr. Ejei said. REUTERS

NAYPYIDAW

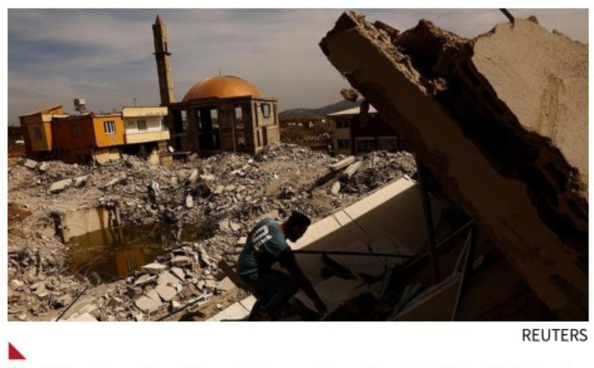
Residents say Myanmar Army killed 17 people in two villages

AP

Soldiers in Myanmar rampaged through several villages, raping, beheading and killing at least 17 people, residents said. The bodies of 17 people were recovered last week in the villages of Nyaung Yin and Tar Taing in Sagaing region, according to members of the anti-government resistance and a resident who lost his wife. AP

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia deposits $5 billion in quake-hit Turkey's central bank



REUTERS

Saudi Arabia said on Monday it was depositing $5 billion in Turkey's central bank. Ahmed Al Khateeb, Saudi Tourism Minister and Board Chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development, signed an agreement with Turkish Central Bank governor Sahap Kavcioglu "to make a significant $5 billion deposit", the Saudi government said. AFP

MOSCOW

Wagner boss says Bakhmut fighters lack ammunition

AFP

The head of Russia's Wagner mercenary group, which is spearheading the longest battle of Moscow's intervention in Ukraine, has complained his forces still lack ammunition. Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose recruits are fighting in Bakhmut, has accused the Defence Ministry of withholding supplies. AFP

Pakistan bans media broadcasts of former PM Imran Khan's speeches

Media regulator said Khan was spreading hate 'against state institutions and officers, which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order'; a violation of the ban by any media outlet would result in its licence being revoked; PTI slams the move

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's media regulator banned broadcasts of Imran Khan's speeches as police arrived at one of his homes to deliver another court summons for the ousted Premier, officials said on Monday.

The development is the latest in a political tug of war between the former cricket star-turned Islamist politician and the government of his successor, Shehbaz Sharif, as Mr. Khan campaigns for early elections.

The ban by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority was imposed on Sunday and went into effect on Monday. It covers airing of both recorded and live speeches by Mr. Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April last year. The ban followed a particularly fiery speech by Mr. Khan, who has a large grassroots following, lambasting Mr. Sharif's government and the country's all-powerful military.

Mr. Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), now in the opposition, denounced the ban. Fawad Chaudhry, a top party leader, said the measure reflects the government's "nervousness and fear" that Mr. Khan's party would win the coming elections in two provincial Assemblies.

Full support: Supporters of Imran Khan standing outside the former PM's residence in Lahore on Sunday. AFP

Baseless allegations

The media regulator said it imposed the ban over what it described as baseless allegations by Mr. Khan against authorities and state institutions, a reference usually used for the military. It said Mr. Khan was spreading hate "against state institutions and officers, which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order."

A violation of the ban by any media outlet would result in its licence being revoked, the regulator said. Hours later, the private *ARY TV* channel was taken off air for airing Mr. Khan's speech on Sunday. The rival *Geo TV* station's anchor, Hamid Mir – a strong voice in support of media freedom and a victim of state-controlled censorship in recent years – slammed the action.

Earlier on Sunday, police arrived at Mr. Khan's home in the city of Lahore with an arrest warrant on suspicion that he had avoided appearing in court on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts he had received as Prime Minister and hiding assets from the election tribunal.

However, the police were told by Mr. Khan's aides that was at his other home, in the capital of Islamabad. After the officers left the premises, Mr. Khan appeared outside the residence and delivered the speech cited for the ban.

The 70-year-old leader has faced a string of charges from Mr. Sharif's government, with several lawsuits launched against him. Last week marked his first appearance in court since he was shot in the leg by a gunman during a rally in November. After appearing in court in Islamabad on last Tuesday, the judge approved bail in the case for Khan, months after police filed terrorism charges against him for allegedly inciting people to violence. The bail exempts him from appearing in court until a trial starts.

South Korea pushes to end disputes with Japan over wartime forced labour

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea announced plans on Monday to compensate victims of Japan's forced wartime labour, aiming to end a "vicious cycle" in the Asian powers' relations and boost ties to counter the nuclear-armed North. Japan and the U.S. immediately welcomed the announcement, but victims have criticised the proposal because it falls far short of their demand for a full apology from Tokyo and direct compensation from the Japanese companies involved.

Seoul and Tokyo have already ramped up security cooperation in the face of growing threats from Kim Jong Un's regime, but bilateral ties have long been strained over Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Around 780,000 Koreans were conscripted into forced labour by Japan during the 35-year occupation, according to data from Seoul, not including women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops.

Park Jin

Seoul's plan is to take money from major South Korean companies that benefited from a 1965 reparations deal with Tokyo and use it to compensate victims, Foreign Minister Park Jin said.

The hope is that Japan will "positively respond to our major decision today with Japanese companies' voluntary contributions and a comprehensive apology," he added.

"I believe that the vicious circle should be broken for the sake of the people at the national interest level," Mr. Park added.

Tokyo insists the 1965 treaty – which saw the two countries restore diplomatic ties with a reparations package of about $800 million in grants and cheap loans – settled all claims between the two relating to the colonial period. But Tokyo's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi welcomed the new plan, telling reporters it would help to restore "healthy" ties after years of tensions. Washington hailed what it called a "groundbreaking new chapter of cooperation and partnership between two of the U.S.'s closest allies," according to a statement from the White House.

The move to resolve the forced labour issue follows years of disputes over Second World War sex slaves, which had soured Japan-South Korea ties.

Running all the way through

Racing to win: A musher and his dog team participating in the official start of the 51st Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in the town of Willow in Alaska, U.S., on Saturday. REUTERS

In Selma, Biden says right to vote remains under assault

Associated Press
SELMA

President Joe Biden used the searing memories of Selma's "Bloody Sunday" to recommit to a cornerstone of democracy, lionising a seminal moment from the civil rights movement at a time when he has been unable to push enhanced voting protections through Congress and a conservative Supreme Court has undermined a landmark voting law.

"The right to vote ... to have your vote counted is the threshold of democracy and liberty. With it anything's possible," Mr. Biden told people seated on one side of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Joe Biden

"This fundamental right remains under assault. The conservative Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act over the years. Since the 2020 election, a wave of states and dozens and dozens of anti-voting laws fueled by the 'Big Lie' and the election deniers now elected to office," he said.

As a candidate in 2020, Mr. Biden promised to pursue sweeping legislation to bolster protection of voting rights. Two years ago, his 2021 legislation, named after civil right leader John Lewis, the late Georgia congressman, included provisions to restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to bankroll political causes anonymously. It passed the then-Democratic-controlled House, but it failed to draw the 60 votes needed to advance in a Senate under control by Mr. Biden's party. With Republicans now running of the House, passage of such legislation is highly unlikely.

UN takes new measures to fight climate change

Agence France Presse
GENEVA

The UN announced on Monday that it had taken a significant step towards trying to fill a key gap in the fight against climate change: standardised, real-time tracking of greenhouse gases.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization has come up with a new Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure that aims to provide better ways of measuring planet-warming pollution and help inform policy choices.

The WMO's new platform will integrate space-based and surface-based observing systems, and seek to clarify uncertainties about where greenhouse gas emissions end up. It should result in much faster and sharper data on how the planet's atmosphere is changing.

"We know from our measurements that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are at record high," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said.

The three major greenhouses gases are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Of those, CO2 accounts for around 66% of the warming effect on the climate.

"The increase in CO2 levels from 2020 to 2021 was higher than the average growth rate over the past decade, and methane saw the biggest year-on-year jump," Mr. Taalas said.

Suicide bombing kills 10 policemen in Pak.; separatists blamed

Associated Press
QUETTA

A suicide bomber riding on a motorcycle rammed into a police truck in Pakistan's restive southwest, killing at least 10 policemen and wounding 12 officers in one of the deadliest attacks on security forces in recent months, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, which took place on a bridge in Sibi, Balochistan province, but Baloch separatists and militants have been blamed for previous such attacks.

Mahmood Notenzai, a local police chief, said the officers were on a routine patrol when the attack happened, initially killing nine. The casualties were taken to a nearby hospital, where one of the critically wounded policemen later died, he added. Sibi is about 150 km east of Quetta, the provincial capital.

Afghan universities reopen but women still barred

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Afghan universities reopened on Monday after a winter break, but only men returned to class with a "heartbreaking" ban by the Taliban authorities on women in higher education still in force.

The university ban is one of several restrictions imposed on women since the Taliban stormed back to power in August 2021 and has sparked global outrage. "It's heartbreaking to see boys going to the university while we have to stay at home," said Rahela, 22, from the central province of Ghor.

No freedom: A banner asking women to cover their faces pasted on a university wall after it was reopened in Kabul. AFP

"This is gender discrimination against girls, because Islam allows us to pursue higher education. Nobody should stop us from learning."

The Taliban government imposed the ban after accusing women students of ignoring a strict dress code and a requirement to be accompanied by a male relative to and from campus.

Most universities had already introduced gender-segregated entrances and classrooms, and allowing women to be taught only by female professors or elderly men.

Ejatullah Nejati, an engineering student at Kabul University, said it was a fundamental right of women to study. "Even if they attend classes on separate days, it's not a problem. They have a right to education and that right should be given to them," he said.

Waheeda Durrani, a journalism student in Herat until she was barred last year, said the Taliban government wanted women to remain uneducated. "If girls and women get educated, they will never accept a government that exploits Islam and the Koran," she said.

Posters dating from before the ban showing how women needed to dress were still on display in the university corridors.

Several Taliban officials say the ban on women's education is temporary but, they have failed to reopen secondary schools for girls, which have been closed for over a year.

INBRIEF

ONGC, TotalEnergies ink MoU to explore deep-water blocks

ONGC has signed a memorandum of understanding with French major TotalEnergies for exploration of deep-water blocks, the company tweeted on Monday. The MoU seeks to provide technical help for ONGC's push to explore and reduce green house emissions in development of deep-water blocks especially in Mahanadi and Andamans, off east coast. REUTERS

FPIs extend selling in Indian equities in Feb.: NSDL data

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued their selling streak in February, but selling moderated in the month after hitting a seven-month high in January, NSDL data showed. FPIs offloaded Indian equities for the second consecutive month in February, selling shares worth ₹52.94 billion. The magnitude of selling moderated compared with January's ₹288.52 billion sale. Reallocation of funds to China and Taiwan and uncertainties from a sharp sell-off in Adani Group shares had intensified FPI selling in January. REUTERS

RBI urges banks, NBFCs to help boost digital payments

Rolling out a campaign to promote digital payments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das urged banks and non-banks to help facilitate making every person in India a user of digital payments. Stating that payment systems had witnessed over 1,000 crore transactions every month since December, with the value of UPI transactions touching ₹12.98 lakh crore in January, he said: "This speaks volumes of the robustness of our payments ecosystem and acceptance by consumers".

'Retail vehicle sales rose 16% in Feb., festivals seen driving March demand'

Sales have picked up as chip shortages eased and automakers introduced new models; FADA sees changes in emission norms from April, promotional offers from automakers in the final month of the fiscal year helping boost registrations

Reuters
BENGALURU

Retail sales of vehicles in India rose 16% to about 1.8 million units in February, helped in part by strong demand during the wedding season, an industry body of automobile dealers said on Monday, adding that festivals could push the sales higher in March.

Sales have picked up in the last two months as chip shortages eased and automakers introduced new models to tap into the demand ahead of the festival and wedding seasons. However, rising interest rates amid elevated inflation are seen as a sentiment dampener, with overall sales in February still below pre-COVID levels.

Revving up

Automobile sales at dealers rose last month to about 1.8 million units aided by robust demand in the wedding season, FADA said

- Rising interest rates amid elevated inflation hurting sentiment, with overall Feb. sales still below pre-COVID levels
- Two-wheeler sales rose 15%, three-wheelers 81%, passenger vehicles 11%, tractors 14%, and CVs 17%
- Dealer group warns that CV sales may be hit if an El Nino leads to a weaker monsoon hitting farm output

Sales of two-wheelers advanced 15%, while those of three-wheelers jumped 81%, passenger vehicles 11%, tractors 14%, and commercial vehicles 17%, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.

Changes in emission norms from April, which would see vehicle prices increase, and automakers rolling out promotional offers in the final month of the fiscal year, should help push sales higher in March, FADA added.

The industry body cited a slew of festivals for anticipated demand in March.

Auto sales numbers are keenly watched, as they are one of the key indicators to assess private consumption and carry more than 50% weightage in calculating economic growth.

Meanwhile, the industry body warned that predictions of a return of El Nino weather conditions in the Pacific, which could mean a weaker monsoon in India and result in lower output and higher prices, may be a dampener for sales of commercial vehicles.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,224	0.69
US Dollar	81.92	0.09
Gold	55,900	-0.07
Brent oil	85.21	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1982.90	103.40
Adani Ports	690.75	6.10
Apollo Hosp	4421.10	12.80
Asian Paints	2864.55	35.70
Axis Bank	859.50	6.85
Bajaj Auto	3723.05	-8.95
Bajaj Finserv	1380.80	25.45
Bajaj Finance	6134.85	34.80
Bharti Airtel	766.60	2.20
BPCL	324.55	3.15
Britannia Ind	4319.85	-92.10
Cipla	880.90	2.25
Coal India	224.90	1.95
Divis Lab	2846.80	-3.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4439.20	1.25
Eicher Motors	3166.20	38.90
Grasim Ind	1598.55	2.30
HCL Tech	1126.70	7.70
HDFC	2674.75	28.65
HDFC Bank	1627.30	11.40
HDFC Life	490.15	0.20
Hero MotoCorp	2479.70	18.15
Hindalco	414.50	-2.40
Hind Unilever	2484.85	13.85
ICICI Bank	867.75	-0.80
IndusInd Bank	1120.60	-5.80
Infosys	1507.45	28.15
ITC	388.15	3.20
JSW Steel	674.25	-8.05
Kotak Bank	1751.00	0.00
L&T	2141.15	-10.90
M&M	1270.45	1.85
Maruti Suzuki	8631.45	30.20
NestleIndia	18514.85	64.95
NTPC	176.80	4.20
ONGC	158.20	3.95
PowerGrid Corp	227.15	5.05
Reliance Ind	2408.70	23.30
SBI Life	1128.70	-0.55
State Bank	561.70	0.50
Sun Pharma	965.25	-1.65
TataConsumerProduct	713.60	3.75
Tata Motors	440.10	12.10
Tata Steel	105.65	-1.35
TCS	3371.85	29.70
Tech Mahindra	1090.05	4.90
Titan	2403.45	7.35
UltraTech Cement	7200.60	-15.35
UPL	711.05	1.05
Wipro	393.75	3.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.71	82.03
Euro	86.85	87.19
British Pound	98.12	98.51
Japanese Yen (100)	60.04	60.29
Chinese Yuan	11.79	11.84
Swiss Franc	87.39	87.74
Singapore Dollar	60.70	60.95
Canadian Dollar	60.05	60.31
Malaysian Ringitt	18.24	18.33
Australian Dollar	54.97	55.19

Source:Indian Bank

'ONDC to help retail survive large e-com firms' onslaught'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a unified payments interface-type protocol, will help small retailers survive the onslaught of large tech-based e-commerce companies, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

ONDC is an initiative of the Ministry to help small retailers expand their business and reduce the dominance of e-com giants.

It offers small retailers an opportunity to provide their services, and goods to buyers across the country

through an e-commerce system, where buyers will be able to purchase the products, which are sold on any platform.

Integrate with e-com

Mr. Goyal said the effort is to encourage small companies, and start-ups to integrate into the e-commerce ecosystem.

"Like UPI democratised payment systems, ONDC will democratise benefits of e-commerce," he added.

Without naming China, he said India's imports from one geography led to a significant rise in trade deficit between 2004-14 and broke the back of Indian manufacturing.

On promoting production of high-quality goods, he said the government is working to introduce quality standards in a big way to aid local manufacturing in standing against irrational competition, raise scale of production and become more competitive.

Govt. to unveil retail trade policy: Official

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The accident insurance scheme would particularly help small traders of the country

The government is working to bring a national retail trade policy for brick and mortar retail traders to promote ease-of-doing business, an official said.

Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Sanjiv said it would also help in providing better infrastructure and more credit to traders.

E-com policy

The Department, he said, is also working to bring an e-commerce policy for online retailers.

"We want that there should be synergy between e-commerce as well as retail traders," he said.

The Department is also in the process of formulating an insurance scheme for all retail traders.

The accident insurance scheme would particularly help small traders of the country, he added. The senior official urged the industry to focus on producing high quality products.

TVS Motor's HLX sales surpass 3 mn bikes globally

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Co. Ltd. (TVSM) said it has achieved the fastest milestone of three million in sales of the HLX series of motorcycles across 54 countries in 17 months.

Unveiled in 2013, the HLX series offers diverse variants and meets the mobility demands of the market, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions across Africa, West Asia and Latin America, TVS Motor said. The HLX series has been providing last-mile connectivity in Africa, where it is widely used as a taxi, providing transportation to millions of passengers every day, TVSM said in a regulatory filing.

Auto-part industry to grow 10-15% in FY24, says ACMA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's auto components industry is expected to grow about 10-15% in FY24, driven by both domestic and export market demand despite fears of a recession in major markets of U.S. and Europe, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) said.

The industry clocked a turnover of $56.5 billion in FY22 with a growth of 23% over FY21.

Moving to India

The sector stands to gain from the manufacturing of components for internal combustion engines (ICE) moving to India as the major Western markets of U.S. and Europe migrate towards electric vehicles.

"In the first nine months that have gone by, that is until December 2022, our export and import continue to be really very well balanced and they are both at $15.1 billion," Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) Director General Vinnie Mehta said.

He said, "We are wary of the fact of the headwinds because of recessionary trends in Europe and the U.S.

"Despite these trends, we feel that our exports are growing in the expected trajectory. We haven't found any slowdown happening in exports. Also imports, because the domestic market has picked up quite strongly."

"We're not seeing any signs of a major recession in the U.S., the way people have talked about last year, or the last quarter of the last calendar year," said ACMA President Sunjay Kapur.

Moreover, a lot of the traditional components being manufactured, also have the option to move to India, as they discontinue production in the Western world, Mr. Kapur added.

Nannies on call, spas; luxury housing seeing a 'mad rush'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

DLF sold a $1-billion upmarket residential project in 72 hours while rival Godrej Properties is offering $3 million apartments to clients invitation, two off-plan sales that signal a revival in luxury housing.

Property developers say spacey, high-price apartments that come with add-ons such as concierge services, spas, multi-level parking, large green open spaces and a heated pool have become the rage.

Many people want to upgrade their homes after the COVID-19 pandemic confined them indoors, industry executives say.

Working from home has also led to a demand for larger apartments, supported by rising incomes and India's growing number of nouveau riche.

DLF's Arbour project in Gurugram, near New Delhi, attracted more than 3,000 applications for 1,137 apartments priced at $8,69,000 each, extremely high price for the area. The booking centre was besieged by people queuing to buy homes.

"I haven't seen such a mad rush in a decade," said Prashant Thakur, head of research at real estate consultant Anarock. "The luxury residential market is on the path to revival."

Anarock data shows that luxury condominiums, defined as those selling above ₹15 million, accounted for 17% of all housing projects introduced in 2022, touching an at least 5-year high.

And, introduction of once-popular affordable homes – priced below ₹4 million– halved to 20% of the total in the period.

ICRA raises thermal power sector outlook to 'stable'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA has revised thermal power sector outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' due to strong demand growth and realisation of dues from discoms under late payment surcharge scheme.

The outlook for the thermal power segment has been revised to stable from negative, supported by the healthy improvement in the thermal PLF (plant load factor level in FY23, which is likely to sustain in FY24, coupled with reduction in dues from discoms, ICRA said in a statement.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Davanagere Division, Davanagere.
Notice No.: IFT-57/AE-2/2022-23/3689 Date: 04.03.2023
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Ref: Tender Notice No. of this office: EE/DDD/ IFT-57/2022-23 Date: 04.03.2023
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal of GoK as per KTPP Act 2000 and Standard Tender Document KW- 4 related to Jagaluru Taluk in the limits of Public Works Department, Davanagere Division from eligible Tenderers registered in Karnataka Public Works Department.
1) Work of Development of Road from Chainage 300.00 km to 302.00 km and from 302.60 km to 304.40 km of Malpe-Molakalmuru State Highway-65 in Jagaluru Taluk. Rs. 475.00 lakhs. Last date for receipt of Tender for works: 13.03.2023 up to 4.00 PM. Date of opening the Tender: 14.03.2023 up to 4.30 PM. Further details can be obtained from the above office during office hours (Phone: 08192-234951, 231530) or website: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/1010/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23 Sd/- Executive Engineer

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
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Phone No: 0836–2747944, Email.ID :eepwddha@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕ್ರಸಂ : ಕಾನಿಇ/ಲೋಇ/ಧಾ/ಟಿಬಿ–6,3/ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/11262 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04/03/2023
ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 ಮತ್ತು 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ (e-Procurement) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ WORK_INDENT166167, WORK_INDENT166168, WORK_INDENT166814, WORK_INDENT166166, WORK_INDENT166163, WORK_INDENT165883, WORK_INDENT165899 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
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ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/1205/2022–23

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION (TNCSC)
(Government of Tamil Nadu)
No. 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Reference No: ME5/50609/2021, Dated: 06.03.2023
TNCSC a Government of Tamil Nadu organization invites e-tenders under **"Two Cover System"** from Private Players for setting up of Integrated Modern Rice Mills for handling the entire supply chain activities including hulling on Paddy Processing Agreement Basis in the following locations:

S.No.	District	Capacity
1	Thanjavur I	500 MT/day
2	Thanjavur II	500 MT/day
3	Thiruvarur I	500 MT/day
4	Thiruvarur II	500 MT/day
5	Cuddalore	500 MT/day
6	Theni	200 MT/day

The Tender documents can be downloaded at **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **07.03.2023.** The details of the tender is as follows:

1	Pre-bid meeting	**17.03.2023 at 11.30 AM**
2	Due Date & Time of submission of the tender	**10.04.2023 up to 3.00 PM**
3	Date & Time of opening of the tender	**10.04.2023 at 3.30 PM**
4	Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs. 1,50,00,000/-** for 500 MT per mill and **Rs. 60,00,000/-** for 200 MT mill. The procedure for remittance of **EMD** is given in the Tender Document

DIPR/1471/Tender/2023 **Managing Director**
"சோதனை கடந்து சாதிப்போம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Mangaluru Division Mangaluru
Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(87E/52E/47E):2022-23:AE-2: Dated: 06.03.2023
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION / 5th Call/ 10th Call
The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent No: 164470, 166794, 166788, 166749, 166967, 164205, 166802, 164156 **under the Head of account :- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements And** Indent No 164784 **Under the Head Of Account :- 5054-03-337-0-17-154** (Plan) SH Improvements, Indent No . 164522, 165410, 165297 **Under the Head Of Account :- 5054-03-101-0-02-132 - MDR Bridge.**
Inviting Tender **5th Call** for Indent No : 158242 And **10th Call** for Indent No :155917, 156561 **Under the Head Of Account :- 5054- District and Other Roads Improvements (Apendix E). Last date for reciept of above tender : 15.03.2023 upto 16.00 Hours.**
In the above Work Highest Cost of Estimate is Rs.100.00 Lakhs & Lowest Cost of Estimate is Rs.40.00 Lakhs. Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/1452/22-23 dt.06.03.2023 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ದೂ: 0821–2421051, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2434425, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ddmysorepalace@gmail.com
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಅ/ಮೈಅಮಂ/ಉನಿ/ಸಿವಿಲ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್–11/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2023
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರಿಂದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ **ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗದಿಂದ 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ. 82.60/– ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ (ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 7.60 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 35.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು)** ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಥವಾ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪ್ರಾಚ್ಯವಸ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪ್ರಾಚ್ಯವಸ್ತು ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಭವವಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿವುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು: **(1)** ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **13.03.2023, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **14.03.2023, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.35 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/1137/2022–23 ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಮನೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು

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AN ENCORE

Mirabai Chanu wins BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award

Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year' award after a public vote. The 28-year-old became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well. Last year, she also won Commonwealth Games gold and World Championships silver.

OUTSTANDING

Shakib's all-round show powers Bangladesh to consolation win

Shakib Al Hasan became the first Bangladesh bowler to take 300 wickets as the team beat England by 50 runs on Monday to avoid a three-match sweep in the ODI series.

The scores: Bangladesh 246 in 50 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 75, Mushfiqur Rahim 70) bt England 196 in 43.1 overs (Shakib 4/35).

WITHDRAWAL

Unable to gain US entry, Djokovic pulls out of Indian Wells

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from next week's ATP/WTA Indian Wells Masters event. Djokovic is unable to enter the United States because he is unvaccinated against COVID-19. The event is followed by the prestigious tournament in Miami which Djokovic is now expected to miss unless US authorities have a change of heart.

TURNED DOWN

Blasters' appeal for a replay of the playoff 'quashed' by AIFF

Kerala Blasters FC's demand for a replay of its Indian Super League playoff match against Bengaluru FC was on Monday "quashed" by the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) disciplinary committee. Blasters had on Friday walked off the pitch and forfeited their match, protesting against a contentious Sunil Chhetri strike.

Hurricane Hayley: Matthews was in her element, smashing 13 fours and a six. PTI

Matthews' blitz blows away RCB

Her unbeaten 38-ball 77 takes MI past the finish line with plenty to spare; the West Indian also scalps three wickets; Nat Sciver-Brunt shines again

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

The crowd kept roaring. So did the tigresses of Mumbai Indians.

The only team in the Women's Premier League to have the advantage of playing in front of a home crowd, MI gave its supporters plenty of reasons to make some deafening noise, as it scored a commanding nine-wicket win against Royal Challengers Bangalore in a marquee clash at the Brabourne Stadium on Monday.

After bowling out RCB for 155, with eight balls remaining, MI romped home with 5.4 overs to spare to post its second win in as many matches. For RCB, it was the second defeat in as many days.

Hayley Matthews (77 not out, 38b, 13x4, 1x6) was MI's top-scorer. She was also her team's highest wicket-taker.

With her off-spin, she scalped three, including the RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana. This is turning out to be a good tournament for the West Indian, who had scored 47 off 31 balls against Gujarat Giants in the opening match.

Choosing to bat, RCB struggled against a disciplined MI attack, backed by some spirited fielding. RCB began promisingly yet again, with Smriti and Sophie Devine showing intent. The openers added 39 in just 4.2 overs, with Smriti's elegance and Devine's power raising hopes of the RCB fans, who also seemed to have arrived in large numbers. But within a space of seven balls, RCB slid to 43 for four.

Devine was caught in the deep while slog-sweeping Saika Ishaque, the left-arm spinner who announced her arrival with a four wicket-haul against Gujarat Giants in the opening match of the tournament. A ball later, the Bengal bowler flighted one to bowl Disha Kasat.

It took some fine efforts down the order for RCB to take the score past 150.

But it proved a cakewalk for MI, as Matthews and Nat Sciver-Brunt (55 not out, 29b, 9x4, 1x6) took MI past the finishing line with an unbroken stand of 114 for the second wicket.

Tuesday's match: Delhi Capitals vs. UP Warriorz (7.30 p.m.).

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhana c Wong b Matthews 23 *(17b, 5x4)*, Sophie Devine c Amanjot b Saika 16 *(11b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Disha Kasat b Saika 0 *(2b)*, Ellyse Perry run out 13 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Heather Knight b Matthews 0 *(1b)*, Richa Ghosh c Nat Sciver-Brunt b Matthews 28 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Kanika Ahuja c Yastika b Pooja 22 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shreyanka Patil lbw b Nat Sciver-Brunt 23 *(15b, 4x4)*, Megan Schutt st. Yastika b Amelia Kerr 20 *(14b, 3x4)*, Renuka Singh b Amelia Kerr 2 *(5b)*, Preeti Bose (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (in 18.4 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-39 (Devine, 4.2 overs), 2-39 (Disha, 4.4), 3-43 (Smriti, 5.2), 4-43 (Knight, 5.3), 5-71 (Perry, 8.1), 6-105 (Kanika, 12.3), 7-112 (Richa, 13.3), 8-146 (Shreyanka, 16.6), 9-154 (Renuka, 18.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Matthews 4-0-28-3, Nat Sciver-Brunt 3-0-34-1, Saika 4-0-26-2, Wong 2-0-18-0, Amelia Kerr 3.4-0-30-2, Jintimani 1-0-10-0, Pooja 1-0-8-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Hayley Matthews (not out) 77 *(38b, 13x4, 1x6)*, Yastika Bhatia lbw b Preeti 23 *(19b, 4x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt (not out) 55 *(29b, 9x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for one wkt. in 14.2 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKET
1-45 (Yastika, 4.6).

RCB BOWLING
Renuka 3-0-28-0, Preeti 4-0-34-1, Schutt 3-0-32-0, Perry 1.2-0-18-0, Shreyanka 2-0-32-0, Devine 1-0-11-0.

Toss: RCB.

MI won by nine wickets with 34 balls to spare.

S. Dinakar, *The Hindu's* senior cricket writer, passes away

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

S. Dinakar, *The Hindu's* Senior Deputy Editor (Sports), passed away at Indore. The veteran cricket writer had just reported the third Test between India and Australia and was preparing to leave for Ahmedabad for the fourth and final Test, when he collapsed in his hotel room. He is survived by his father.

With more than a three-decade service with *The Hindu* Group, Dinakar, 57, worked in the general desk before shifting to *Sportstar*.

Later he moved to *The Hindu's* sports department and his despatches appeared in both *The Hindu* and *Sportstar* with the latest being one on the Holkar-influence over Indore's cricketing heritage. The piece is appearing concurrently with this obituary.

Dinakar reported extensively on sport ranging from cricket to tennis and sailing besides local football and hockey. Eventually he specialised in cricket,

S. Dinakar. FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

his first love, travelling all over India and the cricketing globe, filing reports that had a touch of flair and insights into technique.

He had other interests too: Carnatic music and movies; and he was ever eager to discuss the latest trends in the world of arts. And when in the mood, he could belt an old Kishore Kumar or Ilaiyaraaja number.

He never wanted to hang his reporting boots and after one more stint at chronicling Test cricket, Dinakar passed away as the quintessential newsman.

Remembering the glory days of the Holkars

S. Dinakar
INDORE

The Holkars, those magnificent bunch of attacking cricketers who dominated Indian cricket in their time, lend Indore cricketing history and context.

Between 1941 and 52, the marauding Holkars won four Ranji Trophy titles and reached the final on six occasions.

Reminiscing about the Holkars, Madhya Pradesh off-spinning all-rounder of yesteryear and former National selector Sanjay Jagdale said, "The only way they knew to play was to attack."

Men like C.K. Nayudu, an imposing cricketer, the aggressive Mushtaq Ahmed, the attractive Khandu Rangnekar and Chandu Sarwate with his all-round ability, were all part of Indore's great Holkar team.

In fact, Sanjay Jagdale's father M.M. Jagdale, a fine all-rounder, was a member of the Holkars' Invincibles. "I used to go with my father to watch Holkars' matches. I was thrilled to

C.K. Nayudu. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

see that fearless brand of cricket," he remembered.

Jagdale recalled Mushtaq Ali's thrill-a-minute batsmanship. "What hand-eye coordination, what footwork! I would say he was India's first Twenty20 player. The strokes Suryakumar Yadav is playing now, he used to play them then."

Jagdale said he spoke to and formed bonds with a number of Holkar cricketers but never summoned the courage to walk up to C.K. Nayudu since he was a formidable personality.

Jagdale said, "C.K. Nayudu hit sixes with such ease even when past his prime. He was a gifted cricketer."

The genial Jagdale travelled back to a match at Mhow against an Army team on a "very bad matting wicket". "The manner in which Mushtaq Ali batted on that track was sensational," he said.

During a time when several Kings made it to the Indian team more on clout than merit, Jagdale revealed Holkars' ruler Yashwant Rao would come in an all-white attire and quietly watch the Holkars play and leave. "And he gave a free hand to C.K. Nayudu. Never interfered," said Jagdale.

Along his cricketing journey, apart from his father, Sarwate guided Jagdale.

The glory days of the all-conquering Holkars lend Indore a burnished cricketing lustre.

All-rounder Ellyse Perry — as rare as they come

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

She can bend it like Beckham. She is known more for swinging it like Anderson, though.

Ellyse Perry is truly special. How many athletes have been good enough to play the World Cups in two different sports?

She is, of course, regarded as one of the all-time greats in women's cricket, but she is amazingly talented as a footballer as well. Just rewind to the goal she scored for Australia against Sweden in the 2011 FIFA Women's Football World Cup in Germany.

She actually bent it like Beckham – from the edge of the box to the top corner of the net. For Perry that goal now almost seems like from another life.

"It all happened so long ago, but I loved playing football and it was an amazing opportunity to do that," Perry, who is one of the biggest attractions at the Women's Premier League, tells *The Hindu*. "And it helped me as an athlete in general."

Her athleticism cost India dearly at the recent T20 Women's World Cup in South Africa recently. Her sprint and dive to stop at the boundary line when India needed 18 off the last nine balls to win the semifinal was one of the best bits of fielding in international cricket, male or female, of late.

One of a kind: Perry, a talented cricketer, has played football too for Australia. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Perry, a genuine all-rounder who could walk into a side either as a batter or a bowler, says India was unlucky to lose that game to Australia. "It is another example of the incredible competition we have had with India in international cricket in the last five years," she says.

"India played incredibly well, but we hung in there and took the opportunities that came our way."

Australia went on to win the World Cup beating South Africa in the final. She thus took her tally of World Cups to eight.

Focus now on WPL

Perry's focus at the moment is on the WPL. She is delighted that she has joined Royal Challengers Bangalore.

"We have assembled a good squad," she says. "We have some great domestic players. RCB has certainly done a good job at the auction."

Perry thinks the WPL is going to be phenomenal. "The scale of the WPL is unrivalled by any other women's competition in the world," she says. "And it will create an amazing depth of talent in Indian cricket."

The WPL is waiting for some memorable performances from the woman who has 4921 runs and 283 wickets in international white-ball cricket, not to mention a Test batting average of 75.2.

Cummins out of final Test, Smith to lead

Turning things around: Smith led Australia with aplomb in the Indore Test in the absence of Cummins. R.V. MOORTHY

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Steve Smith will captain Australia again in the fourth Test against India with Pat Cummins remaining at home with his ailing mother, officials said Monday.

Cummins left the tour ahead of the third Test and was initially expected to return, but with his mother in palliative care he has decided to stay back in Australia.

"Pat Cummins has been ruled out of the fourth Test against India in Ahmedabad to remain in Australia with his family," Cricket Australia said in a brief statement.

"Steve Smith will captain Australia in the final Test of this series."

Under Cummins' leadership, Australia slumped to heavy defeats in the opening two Tests, but bounced back spectacularly when Smith took over to win the third Test by nine wickets.

The victory was only Australia's second Test win in India since 2004 and secured them a place in the ICC World Test Championship final in June at The Oval.

Despite revelling in being in charge again, Smith – who was stripped of the captaincy and handed a year-long ban over a 2018 ball-tampering incident – insisted after the third Test that his time as leader was "done".

The fourth and final Test starts in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

No decision has been made yet on whether Cummins will return to India for the three-match ODI series that follows the Tests.

But fast bowler Jhye Richardson suffered a recurrence of a left hamstring injury over the weekend and has been ruled out of the limited-overs games, with Nathan Ellis replacing him in the squad.

IOC Session to be held in Mumbai from Oct. 15 to 17

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday announced that the 140th IOC Session will be held in Mumbai from October 15 to 17. According to a press release, an IOC Executive Board meeting will be held on Oct. 12 and 13, prior to the IOC Session, while the opening ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 14.

The decision to hold the 140th Session in India was taken by its members during the 139th meeting in Beijing in February. India won the bid to host fter 75 members voted for it and one against it. The IOC Session, the general meeting of its members, is held at least once a year. The Olympic body uses the occasion to decide host cities for upcoming events, inclusion or exclusion of sports disciplines or international federations, and changes to its Olympic Charter.

INBRIEF

Real Madrid's title defence hopes dented with Betis draw

Real Madrid stumbled to a damaging 0-0 draw at Real Betis on Sunday, leaving it nine points behind leader Barcelona in the Liga title race.

The results: LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao 0; Real Betis 0 drew with Real Madrid 0.
Serie A: Inter Milan 2 (Mkhitaryan 29, Martinez 53) bt Lecce 0; Roma 1 (Mancini 53) bt Juventus 0.

Maini impresses on Formula 2 debut, finishes fourth

Indian racer Kush Maini produced an impressive drive on his Formula 2 debut to finish fourth in the feature race in Sakhir, Bahrain, on Sunday. He collected 14 points from the weekend and is fourth in drivers' championship after the first round.

Vaidehi in main draw of KPB Trust $40k ITF Women's Open

India's Vaidehi Choudhari qualified for the singles main draw of KPB Trust $40k ITF Women's Open with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Thailand's Punnin Kovapitukted at the KSLTA courts in Bengaluru on Monday. Vaidehi will join six other Indians in the field of 32.

Chelsea's expensive recruits face Champions League test

Chelsea has one final shot to save its season when Borussia Dortmund, with a 1-0 first leg lead, visits in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

The fixtures: Chelsea vs Dortmund; Benfica vs Club Brugge, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Big win for Gokulam Kerala against Sudeva Delhi

Sudeva Delhi's last home game of the I-League season ended in another heavy defeat as it was beaten 4-1 by Gokulam Kerala in New Delhi on Monday.

The result:
Sudeva Delhi 1 (Gomez 15) lost to Gokulam Kerala 4 (Mendigutxia 11, 87; D'Silva 49; Noor 62).

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Irfan's late strike helps FCBU lift Stafford Challenge Cup

Karnataka's victorious Santosh Trophy squad felicitated and awarded ₹25 lakh cash grant by KSFA

FOOTBALL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Irfan Yadwad's glancing header deep into injury time helped FC Bengaluru United defeat Chennaiyin FC 2-1 and lift the Stafford Challenge Cup at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

After Vinil Poojary scored in the 31st minute for FCBU, Chennaiyin levelled after the break, courtesy S. Senthamil's strike.

Back on the throne: The Karnataka team that won the National football championships for the Santosh Trophy after five decades, with AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey at the KSFA Stadium on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fine cross

Just when it seemed that the contest would be decided on penalties, Yadwad met a fine cross from the left flank to seal the win.

FCBU was awarded a cash prize of ₹2,50,000 while Chennaiyin pocketed ₹1,50,000.

CM gives event a miss

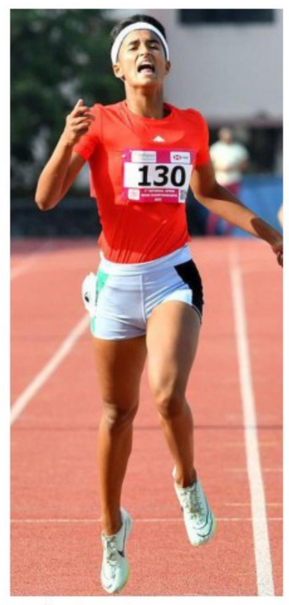
The trophy presentation, however, was delayed by close to two hours as everyone at the Stadium was waiting for Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to arrive and felicitate the State side that had recently won the Santosh Trophy after a decades-long wait.

Mr. Bommai eventually couldn't make it because of other official commitments.

KSFA president and AIFF vice-president N.A. Haris announced a cash grant of ₹25 lakh for the Karnataka team. AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey was also in attendance.

The result (final):
FC Bengaluru United 2 (Vinil Poojary 31, Irfan Yadwad 90+3) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (S. Senthamil 71).

Champion outfit: FC Bengaluru United players celebrate their success. K. MURALI KUMAR



Easily done: Rezoana cruising to victory.

Rezoana runs to a National record

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Running in her maiden 400m race, West Bengal's Rezoana Mallick Heena put on an astonishing burst of speed to set a new National record in the girls' under-16 category in the 4th National Open 400m championships at the LNCPE here on Monday.

Rezoana stopped the clock at 53.22s, to break the mark of 54.57s set by Anjana Thamke at Lucknow in 2012.

"My coach Arjun sir told me to go all out and I did exactly that in the race. The hard work has paid off. I am happy that I could break the National record here," said Rezoana, who also holds the National 300m record.

The results (finals): Men: 1. V. Muhammed Ajmal (Ker) 46.90s, 2. Rahul Ramesh (Mah) 47.54, 3. Santosh Kumar (TN) 47.72.
Boys: Under-20: 1. S. Bharath (TN) 47.83, 2. A. Suraj (TN) 48.25, 3. R. Abishek (TN) 48.25.
Under-18: 1. Ayush Baliyan (U.P.) 50.42, 2. Himanshu Sharma (U.P.) 50.52, 3. Mohan Kumar (U.P.) 50.92.
Under-16: M. Nithin (Kar) 51.22, 2. Aryan Tyagi (Del) 51.66, 3. Sourav Dahiya (Har) 52.60.
Women: 1. D. Jyothika Sri (AP) 53.26, 2. Aiswarya Mishra (Mah) 53.49, 3. Kiran Pahal (Har) 54.29.
Girls: Under-20: 1. Priya Mohan (Kar) 53.55, 2. Kuldeep Kaur (Pun) 56.97, 3. P.R. Neeharika (TN) 57.41.
Under-18: 1. Krushi Umesh (Mah) 56.18), 2. Shravani Sangle (Mah) 57.88, 3. P. Pavithra (TN) 58.25.
Under-16: 1. Rezoana Mallick Heena (WB) (53.22; NR; Old: 54.57, Anjana Thamke, Lucknow, 2012), 2. Mansi Bharekar (Mah) 56.77, 3. M. Nethra (TN) 57.66.

Bengaluru FC must put Blasters incident behind when it takes on Mumbai City FC

ISL-9

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Bengaluru FC will have to quickly put behind memories from the inglorious finish to its Indian Super League knockout win over Kerala Blasters FC when it locks horns with Mumbai City FC in the first-leg of the semifinal at the Mumbai Football Arena on Tuesday.

Impact player: Sivasakthi has been vital to the success of Bengaluru FC. K. MURALI KUMAR

Blasters' walk-out had left many a mind distressed, and though BFC coach Simon Grayson, in the pre-match media briefing, said that his players had moved on and were eager to build on their nine-match winning run, the shadow of the tie lingers.

To come out of it, BFC can certainly draw from the way it played against Blasters, especially in the first half. The combination play involving forwards Roy Krishna and N. Sivasakthi and creator Javi Hernandez, the threat from its wingbacks and the defensive shape when out of possession were top-notch.

"It is important that we are in the tie going into the second leg at home (March 12)," Grayson said.

"The intention will be to win, but if we concede, we need to keep our heads and look to get what would be a better result."

Stand-out team

But MCFC has by far been the League's stand-out team, boasting of a stellar attack comprising the likes of Jorge Pereyra Diaz, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Greg Stewart and Alberto Noguera.

That Des Buckingham's side lost its final two fixtures - including one against BFC - will be of no consequence. By then, MCFC had sealed the League Winners Shield by going unbeaten in 18 games and didn't necessarily field its best XIs. Without a match since February 19, MCFC is also expected to be fresh and energised.

"I think season form sometimes can go out of the window during the playoffs phase," Buckingham said.

"[But] regardless of the team that we play, we've already shown this season that we can perform. If we can do that in the semifinals, we will place ourselves in the best position."

How the love for cricket and doubles is fuelling Purcell's rise

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Last month, Max Purcell arrived for the three-week ATP Challenger swing in India with twin desires – to reboot his singles career and see his beloved Australian Test cricket team perform well in the Indian sub-continent.

By Sunday, the 2022 Wimbledon doubles champion had seen both of his wishes fulfilled. The Challenger title in Pune was his third in as many weeks (after Chennai and Bengaluru), a run that has helped him climb 108 places and debut in the singles top-100 (No. 95).

His compatriots on the cricket field have come roaring back with a win in Indore, after two bruising defeats in Nagpur and Delhi.

This fondness for team sports has seemingly aided Purcell's singles uptick. His love for cricket, a game he played until 14, helped him transition seamlessly to doubles. Success in doubles – one Major crown, two runner-up finishes, one ATP 250 title, 13 Challenger trophies and the 2022 Davis Cup final – kept him afloat financially, gave him a taste of the sport's biggest stages and kindled the singles fire.

On a roll: Purcell's third title in as many weeks has helped him debut in the singles top-100. K. MURALI KUMAR

"I'm a big team sports player and kind of upset with myself that I didn't choose cricket over tennis," the 24-year-old said, when in Bengaluru. "That's why I like playing doubles. I like to combine with someone, because tennis is very serious... to take a step back, team-up and laugh it out down there.

At ease with crowds

"I used a lot of big doubles tournaments to get some training with the top guys and then used that platform for my singles. I'm comfortable playing in front of crowds. Beating Felix [Auger-Aliassime] at Olympics (Tokyo) and [Gael] Monfils in Eastbourne (2021)... I know I can play against big players as well."

Focus on singles

Going forward, Purcell has chosen to focus on singles, but being Australian, he would never say no to doubles.

Especially after the triumph at Wimbledon with Matt Ebden which made them the first all-Australian male winners at the grass Major since 'Woodies' Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won in 2000.

"After Wimbledon I told myself that I have got enough of this doubles stuff. I will always be able to play it later. [But] I want to try and keep my doubles ranking inside 70, so that I can play the Grand Slams. I don't know if I'll have a regular partner. I'm good to play with anyone and it's all fun for me."

Indian team for Billie Jean King Cup named

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sahaja Yamalapalli and Vaidehi Chaudhari make it to the Indian team along with the regulars Ankita Raina, Karman Thandi and Rutuja Bhosale, for the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis tournament to be staged at the Olympic Tennis School in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from April 11 to 15.

The selection was done by the committee with Nandan Bal as the chairman. Balram Singh, Mustafa Ghouse and Sai Jayalakshmy were the other members of the selection committee.

It will be a tough competition this time as the Asian power house China and Japan figure in the group stage.

The team: Ankita Raina, Karman Thandi, Rutuja Bhosale, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaidehi Chaudhari.
Reserve: Shrivalli Bhamidipaty;
Captain: Shalini Thakur Chawla;
Coach: Radhika Kanitkar;
Physio: Ajeeta Goel.

Three National champions move court over non-inclusion in Worlds

BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

National champions Manju Rani (48kg), Shiksha Narwal (54kg) and Poonam Poonia (60kg) on Monday moved the Delhi High Court over their non-inclusion in the Indian side for the World women's boxing championships to be held in Delhi from March 16 to 26.

The case has been listed for hearing on Tuesday on an urgent basis, said the boxers' lawyer Sandeep Lamba.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) selected a 12-member team, including nine National champions, for the elite event as per the new selection policy based on an evaluation system.

It took into account the boxers' performance during training (including endurance and strength and conditioning) and sparring (technical and tactical skills) sessions.

High performance director Bernard Dunne, women's chief coach Bhaskar Bhatt and men's chief coach C.A. Kuttappa awarded points to the athletes for their performances over three weeks. An athlete who topped the list in a weight category was selected for the World championships.

Manju, Shiksha and Poonam scored 564, 573 and 567 points to come second behind Nitu Ghanghas (634), Preeti (623) and Jaismine Lamboria (612) respectively.

Basis for the case

Lamba said the case was based on the fact that while nine National champions were picked for the World championships, three were left out.

"Nitu (in 50kg) gave a walkover in the (Haryana) State championships but got into the National camp soon after that.

"Shiksha, who competed in the 2022 World championships, had beaten Preeti in the National championships, while Poonam had defeated Olympian Simranjit Kaur in the Nationals where Jaismine did not take part," said Lamba.

Manju, also a former Worlds silver medallist, said they were left out despite regularly attending training sessions.

"Some of the girls missed some of the training sessions but got selected, whereas we never missed any session and were not selected," said Manju, adding they had written to the BFI highlighting their grievance.

Earlier, the BFI had said that the evaluation system was fair and the boxers were informed about it beforehand.